Volume XVIII, Issue No. 67 www.saipantribune.com 50¢ FRIDAY MARCH 7, 2008



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What should the CNMI do with the land alienation provision of the Constitution in 2011?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote

INSIDE



Expansion Plan

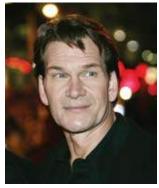
Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture hopes to increase production by 200 percent with the expansion of its shrimp growing facility in China Town.

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Clinton Victories

Hillary Rodham Clinton declared that her primary victories had reordered the presidential race in her favor.

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Cancer Victim

Patrick Swayze is battling pancre-

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63 pct of CDA loans delinquent



Toyota Rav4 ABG 556 after the three-car coalition in front of Saipan Computer Ser-

By FERDIE DELA TORRE

Two persons were hurt during a collision involving three vehicles that was allegedly triggered when a parked truck rolled back onto the highway in

Garapan yesterday morning.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said that Maria Trinidad M. Peñera, 46, suffered abrasions on the face and hands.

Ogumoro said the other driver, Gre-See ROLLING on Page 4 By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

s of Dec. 31, 2007, about 63 percent of the Commonwealth Development Authority's direct loans were in delinquent status. This translates to about \$15.76 million in loans that are in default.

According to a report compiled by acting executive director Oscar Camacho, the 63 percent does not include other outstanding balances such as the debt relief program, judgment, bankruptcy,

buybacks, and matured loans. If factored into the equation, this will boost the delinquency rate to 80 percent.

The CDA had loaned out a total of See 63 PCT on Page 4



A poster for the upcoming "Let Freedom Sing 2008 Festival" is displayed while event organizers talk after the press conference at the Archive Room of the Northern Marianas

New two-day festival will highlight cultural diversity

rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is preparing to host a two-day Let Freedom Sing 2008 Festival that aims to celebrate cultural diversity through cultural music and demonstrations.

The event, part of a series of projects funded by the We the People Grant titled "From Many, One: Exploring Democracy in a Multicultural Commonwealth," will be held on March 29 and 30 from 10am to 5pm inside and around the vicinity of the Multi-Purpose Center.

"The Let Freedom Sing Festival, un-See NEW on Page 4







Saipan - Guam Office: 888-888 Tinian/Rota: 898-4259 www.iconnectsaipan.com **2** FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local

Suspended DOC officer acquitted of 2 charges

Guilty of one misdemeanor offense

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A suspended Corrections officer accused of pointing a gun at a taxi driver was acquitted on two charges, but was convicted of a misdemeanor offense.

After deliberating for less than two hours, the six jurors rendered a verdict finding Jesse R. Babauta not guilty on the charge of assault

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman also found Babauta not guilty of assault and battery, but convicted him of disturbing the peace.

Six jurors decided on the felony charge of assault with a dangerous weapon, while Wiseman handed the verdict on the misdemeanor charges of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Misdemeanor offenses carry a maximum sentence of less than one year.

Wiseman set the sentencing for March 20.

Babauta was in tears after the

bers who were also crying hugged him tightly in the courtroom.

Babauta refused to comment to the media.

Attorney Perry Inos, counsel for Babauta, told the media that the jury "came out with the right decision."

With respect to the disturbing

yer said they are still evaluating their options.

The defense's argument was that Babauta never used a weapon to assault Shawn Castro. Inos said that Castro was on Babauta's property.

"He [Babauta] was protecting himself. He thought that there

was burglary in progress," Inos told Saipan Tribune.

Assistant Attorney Generals Melissa Simms and Michael Evangelista prosecuted the case.

The prosecution alleged that on June 9, 2007, Babauta, who was then a Corrections officer, assaulted Castro with a .223 rifle at the defendant's house. The also hit Castro on the head.

Police said that Babauta pointed the rifle at Castro, a taxi operator of Tropical Island Transportation Services, who had just dropped off Babauta's then girlfriend, Bobby Borja, at the defendant's house in As Teo.

Babauta denied the charges.

with AGO's handling of Miura's case Fitial happy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he

is very happy with how local

authorities are handling the extradition case against Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura.

Fitial will meet the visiting Japanese media during a press conference about Miura's case at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill today at 10:30am.

Press Secretary Charles Reyes Jr. told Saipan Tribune yesterday that the governor is satisfied with how the Attorney General's Office's "reacted very responsibly and very lawfully in this case."

The AGO's actions, Reyes said, have been vindicated by Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona's decision in denying Miura's release.

"That goes to show that our legal arguments were correct." he pointed out. "So we're very confident that we did the right thing and we will continue to do the right thing as far as complying with the laws in concerned."

At Wednesday's hearing, Manglona ruled that the arrest of the 60-year-old Miura by local authorities at the Saipan International Airport was lawful.

Reyes emphasized that Fitial has no personal opinion about the underlying murder case.

"That is something for California to decide. So we're not going to express an opinion as to Mr. Miura's guilt or innocence. That is not our job. That is not our business," he said.

The press secretary said the government's business is to follow the process of detention and extradition legally.

"Everything that we've done is legal," he said.

With respect to the visiting Japanese media, Reyes said Fitial was initially surprised at the level of attention that this case has generated in Japan.

Reyes said the governor welcomes the Japanese press. He said Fitial arranged the press conference today because the governor's office has been receiving many inquiries daily from various Japanese media.

Reyes said the visiting journalists want to talk to the governor, who just arrived early Wednesday morning from the U.S. mainland.

The press secretary said the Japanese media will have an opportunity today to talk directly to the governor for the first time in a press conference setting.

Reyes said Fitial was briefed by chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield about the case only yesterday afternoon.

"We're trying our best to accommodate their [media] needs," he added.

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Rota Dog Control Act yet to be executed

Rota Municipal Council councilman Vicente M. Calvo is asking the Department of Land and Natural Resources start executing the Rota Dog Control Act.

In a letter to DLNR resident director Herman A. Apatang, Calvo said he has been asked by concerned residents to do something about the uncontrolled and unattended dogs that are running

Man gets a month in prison for 'ice' possession

Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama has imposed a 30-day prison term on a man accused of selling crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

At Wednesday's hearing, Lizama sentenced James Q. Reyes to three years in prison, all suspended except for 30 days, for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Reyes, also known as James Kingking, was given credit for the time he had already served in iail.

Lizama placed the defendant on supervised probation for three years and required him to pay a \$1,500 fine, \$25 in court assessment fee, plus a probation service fee.

The judge ordered the defendant to perform 225 hours of community service.

During the probationary period, Reyes will be prohibited from possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages. He will also be subjected to random drug or alcohol tests.

The Attorney General's Office charged the defendant in September 2006 with trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Reyes and counsel Danilo Aguilar signed a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Joseph L.G. Taijeron Jr.

The defendant pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance. The remaining charge was dismissed.

The factual basis of the agreement stated that Reyes unlawfully possessed crystal methamphetamine on Sept. 12, 2006.

Authorities arrested Reyes at his residence in As Perdido for allegedly selling "ice."

According to court documents, on Sept. 7, 2006 detectives from the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau learned from their "cooperating source" that Reyes has been selling "ice" at his residence and in his car.

On Sept. 12, 2006, members of the DPS Special Investigation Section and CNMI-Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force conducted a meeting to arrange for their "cooperating source" to purchase \$200 worth of "ice" from Reyes during a buy-bust operation. (Ferdie de la Torre)

loose around the villages.

"At risk are the safety and health of our residents and especially, the tourists or visitors walking around the villages," Calvo said.

Rota Local Law 7-3 states that Rota legislators had determined that there was a "serious problem on the island of Rota, where domesticated and wild dogs wandering around on public land and private property pose a threat to the health and safety of visitors and residents of Rota."

It further stated that dogs have been killing other domesticated animals and other wildlife on Rota.

The Rota Dog Control Act anne Pangelinan-Brown)

required the registration and licensing of all dogs on the island for a fee of \$5.

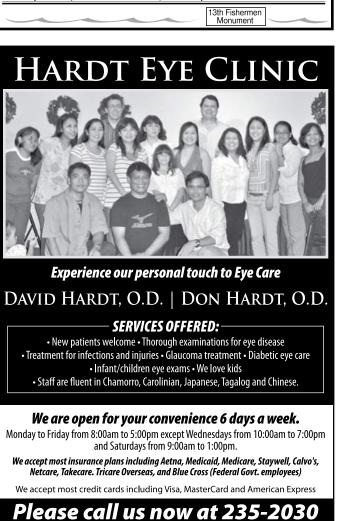
The Act said that if any dogs are found to be unlicensed and unclaimed, they will be destroyed by the Department of Natural Resources "using the most humane procedure or process."

Calvo said that perhaps the DLNR office is experiencing some problems in implementing such a law. "However, we need to know and find corrective measures."

He added that dogs running loose in villages is a serious concern and that he highly recommends that something be done about it immediately. (Rinna Pangalinan, Brown)







We are located at beach road next to Megabyte.





Lawmakers to DoD: We're great destination for R&R

By MARK RARAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

CNMI legislators championed the islands as an ideal rest and recreation destination for U.S. Armed Forces personnel stationed in Guam during a briefing Wednesday on Capital Hill.

Congressmen and senators took turns inviting Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment) B.J. Penn and Capt. Bob Lee, the acting director of the Department of Defense Joint Guam Programs Office, to try out the unique experience the Commonwealth offers and Rep. Ed Salas even offered to be their tour guide the next time and take into consideration that CNMI

they visit Saipan.

Salas also half-jokingly suggested to Penn and company to restrict military personnel to do their R&R activities in the CNMI, as local hotels currently only have 40 percent occupancy. "[For] military games, do it in Guam. R&R in the CNMI," he said.

Senate President Pete Reves offered a friendly reminder to the Legislature's military guests when he said, "please don't forget the CNMI for recreation."

House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho, meantime, struck a more serious tone when he asked Penn to help the CNMI out of its economic doldrums.

"I'm asking the military to help us

is not an afterthought after Guam. It is to healthcare on the islands. also part of the U.S. political family" he said.

While Reps. Oscar Babauta and Tina Sablan asked for more concrete plans, Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan requested that the Legislature be updated as much as possible about the Department of Defense's plans for the region.

"We don't want to be kept in the dark. We want Legislature to be updated as we share equal power with the Executive," she said.

Reps. Joe Reyes and David Apatang, meanwhile, veered away a bit from the relocation plan in Guam when they informed Penn and Lee about the military veterans in the CNMI's lack of access

"No services for veterans here in the CNMI. They all have to go to Hawaii. Considering that a lot of CNMI residents serve in the military and not a few of them have given the ultimate sacrifice in defending the U.S., we hope there is [a better alternative]," said Apatang.

Reyes, meanwhile, lamented the lack of funding for the local Veteran Affairs Office, which is not even a federal office.

Penn responded by saying that it was the first time the lack of medical facilities for CNMI veterans were brought

up with him and assured Apatang and Reves that he would act on it.

Lee, for his part, thanked the lawmakers for their concern and told them that the CNMI master plan would be out soon.

"We're nearing the release of our draft master plan (Guam) scheduled for later this month. The master plan for the CNMI will be available later this year. Studies that are happening involve the community. At the end of the day, we would need to bring it back to the people of the CNMI and see if it makes any sense. We will continue to liaison with you," he said.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy visits Tinian

Assistant Secretary of the Navy BJ Penn made a courtesy call on Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas on Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

San Nicolas and members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation met with Penn and briefly discussed the process of the impending move of the U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

San Nicolas reiterated his concern and the plight of some of the island's ranchers who will be displaced from their year-to-year grazing permit once the military decides to use the land being leased by the U.S. military on Tinian.

He requested the Assistant Secretary to consider buying produce from Tinian farmers and to include this request in their economic impact study.

Penn was reportedly "very receptive" and showed great interest in what San Nicolas had to say.

"It was a short visit and Mr. Penn was happy to be able to tour Tinian for a first hand look of our island," said San Nicolas.

Penn was accompanied by Capt. Robert Lee of JGPO, Roy Tsutsui of COMNAVMAR, and LCDR Joel Van-Essen. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Assistant Secretary of the Navy BJ Penn shakes hands with Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas during a courtesy visit on the island on Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

Mobil: No fine on tanker making deliveries

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. yesterday denied reports that one of its oil tankers was fined by the U.S. Coast Guard when it made a delivery at the Saipan port recently.

The company's public and government affairs manager Cecile Bamba Suda said in a statement that the Mobil Oil tanker indeed stopped over on Saipan but left the island with a full load because the company's storage facility is up to maximum.

"The U.S. Coast Guard did not pose a fine on Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. What we can confirm is Mobil did maximize storage on Saipan. As Saipan was the tanker's first port of delivery the tanker would still have had product on board when it departed Saipan, the product on board is bound for its next port, which is Guam. This is a normal tanker supply operation." (Mark Rabago)

ROLLING

From Page 1

gorio C. Baza, 47, complained of pain in his left hand.

Ogumoro said the truck operator, Jong Hwan Kim, 51, was not hurt but was cited for violation of Section 9 of the Commonwealth Code 5606 titled "Unattended Motor Vehicles."

DPS received a report of an auto collision along Beach Road, Garapan yesterday at 11:20am.

Police's preliminary investigation showed that a white Izuzu flatbed truck owned by Pls Water Company was parked in front of Daeha Restaurant located north of Saipan Computer.

Ogumoro said that, according to the

police, Kim had stepped out of the truck and failed to crank the hand brake lever.

The truck eventually rolled back onto the northbound highway and collided with a white Ford Club Wagon van being driven by Baza.

Due to the impact, the van was pushed to the southbound lane, hitting an oncoming silver Toyota Rav4 being driven by Peñera.

Responding medics transported the injured Peñera to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Peñera's vehicle sustained major damage. Baza's van had major damage on the right side and moderate damage on the rear portion.

The truck had moderate damage on the rear portion, according to Ogu-

NEW

From Page 1

like other events in the CNMI, will be highly interactive," said Herman T. Guerrero, chairperson of the NMIHC. "It will give all attendees an opportunity to actively participate in the activities while heightening their appreciation of the multitude of cultures represented in the CNMI."

Several groups ranging in ethnicity and age have already confirmed their commitment to perform cultural songs.

The groups include the Inatuas Cultural Group; the Carolinian Cultural Club from the Northern Marianas College; the Chamorro Club from the Marianas High School; a group from the Marianas Baptist Academy; the Tupulaga O Micronesia group; groups from the San Vicente, Garapan, and Kagman elementary schools; and others.

Live cultural demonstrations will also be keeping guests entertained outside the Multi-Purpose Center as musical numbers are being performed inside

The group said the cultural demon-

strations will expand people's understanding of other people's origins and cultural heritage.

Cultural demonstrations will include Japanese Origami art, banana art painting, tangan tangan lei making, beadwork making, talaya throwing, Samoan headpiece making, and others.

Guerrero said that there will be something for everyone at the festival.

"I highly encourage families to come and help celebrate the rich diversity that the CNMI offers while having fun watching live performances and learning cultural practices," he added.

With funding from the National En-

dowment Fund for the Arts, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture plays a key role in the organization of the Let Freedom Sing Festival as it provides the financial and logistical support needed for the event.

The Let Freedom Sing Festival is the kick-off event for NMICH's other We the People Grant projects.

Other projects include "Democracy Considered," which is a series of community discussions in which community members are afforded an opportunity to examine different issues relating to democracy in the Commonwealth.

Another activity is the "Back to Basics Program," which will feature public lectures given by the recognized local and international experts focusing on the basics of democracy.

NMICH was awarded the We the People Grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the projects are being organized by Taro Leaf, Inc.

NMICH is still calling on groups who are interested in performing at the Let Freedom Sing 2008 Festival or those who would like to conduct cultural demonstrations to contact Edward Manglona at 285-2617.

63 PCT

\$36.275 million by end of December last year. Of the 194 total number of borrowers, 179 are delinquent.

The report stated that, by just looking at the numbers, it would seem as if 92 percent of CDA borrowers are delinquent and 80 percent of the amount loaned out is delinquent.

Camacho said, however, that the figures should be approached with caution and more understanding of the treatment of accounts.

"For example, there is no reason to include bankruptcy and judgment accounts in the delinquency ratio since these accounts are already addressed or dealt with one way or another in a more serious or severe manner.

"An example would be the bankruptcy, akin to write-off. With judgment loans, these loans are reduced to judgments and are subject to foreclosure and auction so they are simply to be recovered and have no reason to be included as delinquent for purposes of delinquency reporting," he said.

Camacho said most of the matured loans are also still being serviced, although they are way past their maturity term and should still be subject to the reporting.

"The Board has already instructed us on how to treat these accounts, and a simple revision of term extension as a paper fix is the logical approach. Should judgment accounts and bankruptcy be taken out and the matured loans restructured with new terms or moved over for collections, then the delinquency ratios will show substantial improvements; or a big difference as to what has being repeatedly reported showing high delinquency ratio when the ratio should be way lower if and when accounts are properly treated," Camacho said.

"In this instance, the delinquency ratio of 63 percent appears to be the true ratio that should be taken as the more formalized figure to report," he added.

Camacho had conceded, though, in an earlier interview that the number of delinquent accounts has been going up. He said that CDA has been diligent in collecting the dues and outstanding balances but because times are difficult, the numbers just keep on increasing.

"It is true. The delinquency rate is high in terms of the dollar amount and number of borrowers," Camacho

As of November 2007, the CDA had a total of 30 loans with outstanding balances and accrued interests totaling some \$13 million that have been

brought to court.

To help older clients, CDA has lowered its interest rate from 9 percent to 2 percent and has expanded its installment terms from 15 years to 30 years.

Camacho said that CDA aggressively goes after delinquent loans. If efforts don't yield results, CDA refers these borrowers to collection agencies, then later to court

Camacho said the CDA still entertains "arrangements" with borrowers who have already been referred to collection agencies.

"We have a very good arrangement. Even if we refer the case to a collection agency, the client can still come here to work things out with us," he said.

Toyota continues to hold pole position

again the top seller among vehicle brands after it sold 31 new

Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association.

Japanese automaker Toyota was data submitted Tuesday by the percent of the market and is a whopping 40.91-percent increase from the 22 Toyota sold

cars and seven sport utility vehicles last month. For the year, the Japanese automaker—sold

each of the findings in the FY

2006 audit. The college should

inform the commission of any

increases in staffing assigned

to business services, as well

as changes in procedures in its

The report should also in-

clude copies of all policies and

procedure manuals changed in

Acting dean for academic

programs Dr. Debra Cabrera

said the college continues to

address program reviews and

it plans on focusing on every-

one, from the students to fac-

response to the audit findings.

business operations.

ulty and staff.

disposed of 53 new cars.

A far second in auto sales last month was Nissan, which sold 12 units, representing 16.9 percent of the market. The number, however, was good news for the automaker, sold by Joeten Motors in the islands, as it was a 200-percent increase from the four Nissan units customers snapped up in the

The Nissan vehicles sold in February 2008 consisted of five cars, four trucks, and three SUVs. For the year, 18 Nissan units have been driven off the Joeten Motors showroom and parking lot in San Jose.

same period last year.

Three automakers—Ford, Honda, and Mitsubishi—each sold six units last month, which equally come up to 8.45 percent share of the auto market in February 2008.

Ford, sold by Joeten Motors, saw 8.7-percent improvement in sales from the four units sold in February 2007. Honda, also sold by Joeten Motors, recorded a 6.52percent increase from the three it sold in the same period last year.

Mitsubishi, meanwhile, saw a 200-percent spike in sales after the Triple J Motors-carried automaker sold only two units in February 2007.

Triple J's Mazda (four), Microl's Chevrolet (three), Joeten's Kia (two), and Triple J's Hyundai (one) make up the rest of the automakers that sold cars last month.

February 2008 was a banner month for the CADA, as new car sales soared 54 percent to 71, compared to 46 in the same month in 2007. In addition, CADA members also made a killing in used car sales, as the segment experienced a 33-percent jump to 45 units compared to 30 units in the same period last year. (Mark Rabago)

cars last month, according to The 31 units represent 43.66 in February 2007. NMC re-emphasizes full accreditation goals

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College re-emphasized its goal to attain full accreditation and its continued efforts to address program review and assessment during a news briefing yesterday.

Also discussed were bills introduced by Reps. Ray Yumul and David Apatang that just might be enough to save the college from closing.

Apatang introduced HB 16-54 to repeal and re-enact Section 2 of Public Law 14-98 to exempt NMC from a rate increase in employer contribution to the Retirement Fund.

Public Law 14-98 exempted PSS from a rate increase in employer contribution to the Fund for five years, stating that "PSS is not a revenue-generating agency and does not have sufficient funds to pay for the increase."

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Armed robberies

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for more information on any person(s) responsible for the recent wave of armed robberies.

The most recent incident occurred early morning on Monday, March 3, 2008, where an unidentified man armed with a possible gun entered and robbed the Yuta Poker establishment in San Roque. The suspect fled the scene with an undetermined amount of money. No one was injured during the incident. The suspect was described as wearing a camouflage/army jacket, dark colored pants, white gloves and a dark colored material to conceal his face.

Anyone having information about this crime may call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous.

PSS contributes only 24 percent to the Retirement Fund while the college, like other government agencies, pays 34 percent.

The bill to also exempt NMC from the rate increase was passed by the House Tuesday.

NMC president Carmen Fernandez said that this measure would resolve the audit finding relating to the retirement contribution issue.

She described the legislation as playing a crucial role in addressing one of NMC's major audit findings.

Apatang also introduced House Bill 16-33 that seeks to remove the requirement that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the college pay 1 percent of their annual budget to the Office of the Public Auditor.

Fernandez said this bill, which will be deliberated this week, will result in about \$60,000 savings for the college.

Finally, an FY 2008 budget bill proposing a budget of \$6.7

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Mike Thorpes's

million for the college was introduced by Yumul and was passed by the House Tuesday.

The proposed budget, Fernandez said, is above and beyond the \$5.8 million proposed by the governor's budget.

"This amount should help us meet compliance requirements related to staffing requirements," the president said.

Raaj Kurapati, NMC chief financial and administrative officer also discussed the March 15 report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, which is due next week.

The Western Association of Schools & Colleges' ACCJC had asked the college to submit a "special report" by March 15, 2008, showing resolution of the findings reported in the institution's most recent audit for FY 2006.

The report should provide the accrediting commission with information about what steps the college has taken to address

'LESLIE JACKSON'





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Shrimp farm goes full blast with expansion

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture hopes to increase production of shrimp by 200 percent with the expansion of its shrimp growing facility in China Town.

Operations manager Rommel G. Catalma said the local shrimp

farm will expand two-fold with the addition of 32,000 square feet of watered area being constructed next door to the current facility, which has a watered area of 16,000 square feet.

"The expansion is still within the same property but has not been cleared before. In fact, the walls of the new tanks will only be less than 10 feet from the existing tanks to maximize space," said Catalma.

Not only will Saipan SyAqua have double capacity in the future but the new tanks will also be bigger and deeper, which is ideal for bigger-sized shrimps.

Construction period for the new facility is expected to be



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan SyAqua Aquaculture is expected to boost shrimp production with the addition of 32,000 square feet of watered area to its current 16,000-square-foot facility in China Town.

completed in 75 days. It started in early part of February and the company's schedule of stocking shrimps for the new tanks is on discontinuous days.

April 15, according to Catalma.

The expansion will entail the construction of four large grow out tanks and two nursery tanks, a deep well, filtration system for water recirculation, and a

50,000-gallon water reservoir.

"The system is being designed to have very minimal water discharge to conform with 'Best Aquaculture Practices.' Our target is to discharge not more than 10 percent of our total water volume in a five-month culture period," he said.

Catalma said the new construction will double the production of shrimp at the shrimp farm.

"Our target is to produce 8,000 10,000 lbs per month before the end of the year.

The new tanks will also produce bigger-sized shrimps because that is where the demand is biggest. Target size will be 13-15 pieces of shrimp per lb," he said.

Saipan SyAqua's expansion couldn't have come at a better time, as demand for the seafood has increased since the company started selling the shrimp last year.

"The demand since Christmas until the Chinese New Year was beyond what we expected. Not wanting to disappoint customers, we started selling smaller sized shrimps hoping we can catch up with production when demand slows down. But that never happened, restaurants are asking for more, hotels are ordering more, the Sabalu Market sales keep climbing up and

there are more walk-in customers in the farm," he said.

Catalma added that Saipan SyAqua reassessed the situation and concluded that the only way they can catch up is to stop selling for a while until the shrimps get to the size and biomass that the company wants.

He said Saipan SyAqua will be back selling shrimp at the Sabalu Market on March 22. "By that time our shrimps will be much bigger and the supply more consistent."

Saipan SyAqua grows Pacific white shrimp (*Pennaeus Vannamei*). Last Dec. 27, the local shrimp grower exported 125 pairs of broodstocks—or parent shrimps—to one of the biggest shrimp hatcheries in Indonesia last December. The lone transaction easily netted the company \$6,250.



Red Cross Certificates will be issued after the lessons.



3 firms continue support for NMI 'mathletes'

Subway, along with Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. and Foremost Foods, were once again among the major sponsors of this year's Mathcounts competitions, the 14th since it was first held in 1994. Continuing on with their tradition of support, the three companies provided snacks and drinks for the approximately 150 participants of the event.

Martha C. Camacho, Northern Mariana Islands Mathcounts state coordinator, expressed appreciation for Subway, Coca-Cola, and Foremost Foods' sponsorship of the event.

"We are very grateful for Subway, Coca-Cola and Foremost Foods' continued support for the program," Camacho said. "We are very thankful that they have always been regular supporters of Mathcounts; their sponsorship has become a tradition," she added.

Subway, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc., and

First 'Families Fit For Life' walk tomorrow

The Joeten Charitable Foundation and the Joeten Group of companies have organized their first Families Fit for Life Health Program.

This fitness program is intended to encourage the staff and the employees of the Saipan-based corporation to be more aware of health issues and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Joeten has established a Healthy Lifestyle Committee that will organize bimonthly fitness walks so that employees and their families can exercise together and enjoy the benefits of having a healthy mind and body.

"In light of the many health challenges that we are seeing in the Commonwealth, we find it imperative that we take some time out to take good care of our body and mind and in return improve work performance," said Joeten Enterprise Inc. president Clarence Tenorio. "We are confident that the time we spend together exercising will help us better accomplish our corporate mission."

The incidence in diabetes and heart-related diseases are rising in the Commonwealth and around the world. Some of the workers are more susceptible to these types of diseases due to the nature of their work. Regular workout session will reduce or eliminate such risks.

The Families Fit For Life health program will begin tomorrow, March 8, 2008 at 5pm at the Beach Road pathway beginning from Kilili Pavilion to the Ouartermaster road and back. (Joeten)

Foremost Foods donated \$1,000 The NMI Mathcounts held its to the Northern Mariana Islands Mathcounts last year, which was used to help defray the cost of sending four local students to the national competition held in Texas in May last year.

"We are always happy to support the NMI Mathcounts," Stella Fong, Subway Investments Corp. vice president, said. "It's our own little way of helping our local students who are gifted in mathematics to compete in the national level," she added.

Johnnie Fong, managing director for Coca-Cola and Foremost Foods, said that sponsoring the event is a community service, a part of the companies' commitment to the islands' youth.

"We believe in supporting our talented students for they will one day be the movers in our community," he said.

The NMI Mathcounts held its chapter competition on Feb. 16 at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall in Susupe. In that event, Marianas Baptist chapter competition on Feb. 16 at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Academy emerged triumphant, with two of its teams clinching the top three posts, and five of its students successfully making it to the final round.

Other schools that participated were Calvary Christian Academy, which placed second in the team category; and Saipan Community School which came in fourth.

The state competition is scheduled for March 15 also at the Multi-Purpose Center. 'Whoever wins the top four in the countdown round will be sent to Colorado in May to represent the CNMI in the national competition," Camacho said.

Mathcounts is held annually to encourage the islands' "mathletes" to further develop their skills. It is a U.S.-wide program meant to enhance the math skills of junior high and sixth grade students. (Subway)



Amateur radio licensing exams

The next VE session offered by W5YI-VE sponsored by MDX Amateur Radio Club will be on March 12, 2008 from 6pm to 8pm.

It will be held at the classroom of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter. For more information, contact Bong at 321-8888 or email at mdx@mdx-radio.net

Walk-ins will be accepted,

although pre-registration is encouraged. Those in the Technician Class who want to upgrade must bring the original and one photocopy of their FCC license and any applicable CSCEs.

A valid ID will also be reguired. If you do not have a photo ID, bring two ID forms, at least one of which shows your current mailing address. The 2008 exam

The exam session will be administered by the MDX Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiner under the W5YI Volunteer Coordinator.

VEs wanting to assist in the exams should bring their VE IDs. Only VEs with valid ID are allowed inside the examination session. (PR)



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Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	\$26,990.00	Ridgeline	#7H505732	Silver	\$32,990.00
Pathfinder	#6C67465 SOLD	Granite	\$28,990.00				
FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE	KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Ranger	#7PA31119	White	\$16,990.00	Rio	#76292370	White	\$12,995.00
Fusion	#7R127180	Pearl	\$18,990.00	Rio	#76292373	Gray	\$12,995.00
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8 Saipan beaches red-flagged

Quality has raised the red flag on eight sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The agency said that samples collected from Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, Hafa Adai Hotel, Hafa Adai Drainage, Jeffries Beach, Hidden Beach and S. Laulau Beach on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria—enterococci—that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that

The Division of Environmental storm water runoff in tropical health concerns. environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian,

12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shores surrounding Managaha.

Contact DEQ at 664-8500 for more information. (DEQ)

Three to benefit from HANMI golf tourney

The Hotel Association of the ing CNMI's beauty for years Northern Mariana Islands will donate proceeds from its Seventh Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic to three local charities.

Earnings from this year's tournament will benefit Beautify CNMI, Crime Stoppers and Marianas March Against Cancer.

"Keeping our island safe and protecting our environment are key components in fostering tourism growth, with the added benefit of maintainto come," says HANMI chairwoman Lynn A. Knight.

This year's event will be held at Marianas Country Club on Saturday, April 5, 2008. With an entry fee of \$99 per person, this fundraising event is the premier charity golf tournament in the first quarter of 2008. The hotel association hosts this annual event to raise awareness for and about the hospitality industry within the local community.

Entry forms and sponsorship opportunities may be obtained by contacting Adeana Shendal at adeanashendal@yahoo.com or Lynn Knight at lynn knight@ tanholdings.com.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in Aug. 29, 1985, after a group of hotel operators came together and saw the need to form an organization representing the hospitality industry in the CNMI. (HANMI)



March 07, 2000

Lending base shrinks due to economic slowdown

Slow business activities, which virtually cripple the borrowers' ability to pay back, forced banking institutions in the Northern Marianas to carry out a more cautious approach in credit applications, resulting to a sharp decline in approved loans last year. This, even as finance experts claim that banks continue to expand their lending base, notwithstanding higher risks of delinquency due to lower returns of income in times of economic difficulties.

Gov't steps up campaign vs sale of alcohol, tobacco to minors

The CNMI government is intensifying its campaign against the sale of tobacco and alcoholic beverages to minors through the deployment of teams from the Department of Commerce to conduct random inspections of establishments in the islands. Part of the random inspection is the education of establishment owners on the ills of selling the regulated items to minors, which include confiscation and permanent suspension of business permits.

House OKs labor and business reform bill

The House of Representatives yesterday passed on first reading the comprehensive labor and business reform measure, paving the way for legislators to repeal laws they said stunt CNMI's growth amid the economic crisis confronting the island. House Bill 12-39, offered by Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, cleared 12-4, with Representatives Diego T. Benavente, Jesus T. Attao, Tomas B. Pangelinan and Stanley T. Torres voting against it.

March 07, 2001

Mandarin Air suspends Saipan flights

Mandarin Airlines will cancel its flights to the Northern Marianas due to revenue losses incurred since November 2000 after the termination of charter agreement with Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Mandarin Air Saipan Station Manager Charlie Ling said Saipan-Taipei flights will be suspended beginning March 24 until June this year to prevent more losses, projected to reach \$20,000 per roundtrip.

Guidelines for military exercise in FDM eyed

The Senate is seriously looking at setting the guidelines for the US Military's bombing exercises in Farallon de Medinilla, in fresh attempts to save the island north of Saipan from further destruction. Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes disclosed plans to craft a resolution that would list down the kind of military activities that may be allowed in Farallon de Medinilla.

Special enforcement team upgrades high-risk arrests

Leave it to this team of proficiently-trained men to bust the most wanted of criminals. In full force, the 16-member Tactical Response Enforcement Team derived from various divisions under the Department of Public Safety is capable of administering high-risk arrest warrants, specifically of crooks that have defected from the police force.

March 07, 2002

Tighter belt for government

Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente will ask the Office of Management and Budget to implement a proportionate reduction on third and fourth quarter allotments in light of dwindling government revenues. Benavente said that, aside from the Public School System, all other government agencies and offices will receive lower quarterly allotments to prevent deeper depletion of public coffers.

Wage adjustment an overkill in economic crisis: Chamber

The recommendation of the Special Industry Committee in October 2001 to increase the minimum wage by 22 cents to adjust for inflation may no longer be feasible or practical in light of the current situation besetting industries in the Commonwealth. Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Richard A. Pierce said yesterday that, when the committee submitted its recommendation to the Legislature, it was the best option possible at that time.





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PDO's request to withdraw from case denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

The Superior Court has denied the Public Defender's Office's request to withdraw as lawyer for a man charged with sexual abuse of a minor.

Associate Judge Ramona V.

Manglona ruled that PDO's cast withdrawal from representing by Benson Dionadula Dela Cruz at a time close to the trial day would frustrate the interest of all parties in the case, including the defendant, in the efficient administration of justice.

She said that PDO must present a sound basis for withdrawal. "PDO has failed to show that such

grounds are present in this case," said Manglona in her order.

The judge said PDO should continue its representation of Dela Cruz and should effectively cross-examine the complaining witness in this case should she take the stand to testify.

"There is no concern in this case that PDO will be affected by any pecuniary interest. The merits of PDO's policy decision that its mission will be best served by automatically disqualifying itself from all matters in which a former client may potentially be called as an adverse witness is also of no concern in this case," she pointed out.

Dela Cruz was brought before

the court on Oct. 10, 2006, for a bail hearing after being arrested for the crime of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

PDO was appointed counsel for Dela Cruz. The defendant posted bail.

At the arraignment hearing, the defendant appeared with an assistant public defender, who notified the court that their office needed to verify if a conflict existed.

After several status conferences, the case was finally set for a jury trial to begin on July 23, 2007.

But based on the stipulation of the parties, the court re-set the jury trial date to Oct. 1, 2007, and a new attorney within

the PDO took over the case.

In preparation for the jury trial, the government filed its witness and exhibit list and identified the victim's mother as one of the potential witnesses who may be called to testify at trial.

Prior to the jury trial date, counsel for both parties stipulated that the jury trial date would be continued again until Dec. 10, 2007.

The current defense attorney assumed responsibility of the case. Thereafter, Dela Cruz filed various motions. The court denied the motions.

The jury trial was continued for the third time until Feb. 18, 2008. In early January 2008, the

current defense counsel realized that one of the government's witnesses, the victim's mother, was a former client of the PDO when she presented herself at their office to seek legal advice on her prior cases.

The PDO had previously represented the mother in two prior misdemeanor cases—driving while under the influence of alcohol convictions—that were fully adjudicated and no longer pending.

Because the PDO was actively representing defendant in this case, she was denied further representation and asked to leave the PDO's premises.

Based on this discovery, the defense counsel believed his office

had a conflict of interest because of confidential information obtained from its former client.

The PDO filed its written motion to withdraw due to a conflict of interest on Jan. 16, 2008.

The court continued the matter to Jan. 23, 2008 to review the briefs and to hear the arguments of counsel on the PDO's motion.

In her written ruling, Manglona cited that the U.S. Supreme Court has held that the U.S. Constitution's Sixth Amendment right to counsel ensures that a criminal defendant has the right to representation that is free from conflicts of interest and the assistance of counsel whose loyalties are not divided.





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pinion



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EDITORIAL

Putting Iran on notice

ictories for Bush administration diplomacy are rare these days, and the adoption of a third U.N. Security Council resolution tightening sanctions against Iran is worth celebrating—even though it probably represents more of a belated act of self-defense by the rest of the council than a triumph of U.S. statecraft. True, the resolution passed Monday isn't as strong as the U.S. wanted, it took an entire year, and in the short term it won't stop a determined Iran from making nuclear weapons. Still, it's an important step in the long-term international campaign to convince Iran's coolest head—Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei—that the cost to Iran in isolation and lost prestige if it persists with its nuclear program will simply be too high.

Three little-noticed aspects of the U.N. resolution deserve closer scrutiny. First, unlike its two predecessors, Resolution 1803 wasn't sponsored by the United States. It was a European draft (watered down by the Russians and Chinese), and it was French President Nicolas Sarkozy who worked all weekend persuading the four Security Council members who voiced objections on Friday. Monday's vote was unanimous, and only Indonesia abstained, under intense pressure from its vast Muslim population.

Second, the sanctions are narrow, and that's smart. They punish two banks, Melli and Saderat, that have been aiding the Iranian nuclear program, and they freeze assets and ban travel by specific individuals who are involved in the program and who have tried to circumvent earlier U.N. sanctions. They also require countries to stop ships or aircraft when there is reasonable cause to believe they're carrying nuclear contraband to Iran. That's a useful invitation to catch Iran red-handed, and Washington had better use the authority carefully, as any intelligence failures that result in intercepting innocent shipments will be seized on by Tehran as proof that it's the victim of a nuclear smear campaign by the Great Satan.

Third, the evidence of nuclear warhead designs found in an Iranian laptop is said to have stiffened the spines of the Russians, Chinese and Europeans, who genuinely fear an Iranian bomb but who aren't willing to risk war to prevent it. This resolution finally passed in part because President Bush is so weakened by the latest National Intelligence Estimate on Iran, by domestic economic woes and by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that the Russians, Chinese and Europeans no longer fear that he'd attempt to take advantage of a tougher U.N. stance to justify a military attack on Iran in his waning days in office. If Bush would clench his teeth and stop threatening Iran, perhaps the rest of the world will feel the need to do more to contain it.

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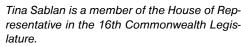
'A crucial step in the right direction'

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the written testimony submitted by Rep. Tina Sablan to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 5, 2008

ear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on the impact of federally-mandated minimum wage increases on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I am a member of the House of Representatives in the 16th Commonwealth Legislature. I offer this testimony not only as an elected representative, but also as a member of the generation that was born in the Commonwealth in the 1980s and came of age in the 1990s. We have watched the steady dwindling of economic opportunities in our islands over the years with growing dismay. My generation yearns for change, and one fundamental and critically needed change is a raise in the minimum wage.

For years many of the Commonwealth's government and business leaders have argued against wage hikes in the private sector, which they have claimed would disastrously impact the local economy. By TINA SABLAN Special to the Saipan Tribune





Years of depressed wages have contributed directly to the economic difficulties facing the Commonwealth today. Minimum wage increases would help us begin to address those difficulties. Wage increases would help low-wage workers keep pace with the rising cost of living, meet basic needs without having to seek welfare assistance, and pump money back into the local economy. Wage increases would also help correct the glaring disparities between public and private sector wages, and attract more citizens from the oversized public sector to the private sector. The transition of citizens out of the local government and into the private sector will be

Years of depressed wages have contributed directly to the economic difficulties facing the Commonwealth today. Minimum wage increases would help us begin to address those difficulties.

minimum wage at \$3.05 for over a decade while the costs of fuel, undertaking due to the current fiscal crisis. utilities, and groceries have soared; of deliberately and artificially depressing wages in the private sector while government employment expanded and government salaries rose; of relying excessively on labor-intensive industries and low-wage foreign labor; of investing millions in the education of my generation, without also seeking to create opportunities for us to apply our skills and make a decent living in the islands; and of losing hundreds, perhaps thousands, of young, well-educated, middle-class professionals and their families as they pursue and acquire professional fulfillment and financial self-sufficiency in the mainland United States, Hawaii, and Guam.

I respectfully submit that all of these factors have impacted the economic prospects of present and future generations of the Commonwealth far more seriously than annual minimum wage increases of 50 cents for the next seven years ever could. I also believe that any delay of minimum wage increases will ultimately mean a delay in long-term economic recovery. I therefore support the minimum wage increases mandated under Public Law 110-28, and believe they should continue as scheduled until the Commonwealth reaches parity with the rest of the United States.

But few have acknowledged the disastrous impacts of keeping the especially important in light of the layoffs that the government is

Furthermore, wage increases would push the Commonwealth to wean itself from its over-dependence on low-wage foreign labor and finally invest more seriously in the development and wellbeing of its most valuable resource: its people. More citizens seeking work in the private sector would mean a larger and more stable labor pool for businesses. Higher wages overall would mean that more middle-class families and young, educated professionals and entrepreneurs might be able to return to the islands and help diversify and strengthen the Commonwealth's economy. Future investors would be attracted to the Commonwealth, not for its low wages and access to inexpensive foreign labor, but for its skilled and educated workforce, among other positive attributes. Meanwhile, existing businesses would realize a more productive workforce that has greater disposable income, and those businesses that have relied on low wages no matter what jobs they offered would lose their competitive advantage over businesses that have opted to pay their employees livable wages.

It should be noted that the economic reform that would be spurred See A CRUCIAL on next page

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number **EDITORIAL POLICY** of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Somebody Else

ho is the most important person in Saipan? The answer is easy. The most important person's first name is: "Somebody." And the last name? "Else."

Who will invest in the pie-in-the-sky projects we're hearing about? Somebody Else.

Who will provide the technical expertise? Somebody Else.

Who will manage the projects? Somebody Else.

Who will do the work? Somebody Else.

Let's tally the score here: If the money, the expertise, the management, and the labor for our fantasy projects are going to be done by Somebody Else, then what does the Commonwealth bring to the table?

Well?

The answer used to be, of course, a unique combination of labor and wage advantages and the U.S. flag. But the labor and wage advantages are, as you know, on the wane, which is a true economic bummer, but I'm not up for barking up that tree today.

But in these troubling times, it is amazing that from some quarters, the CNMI has merely amplified its wacky Somebody Else anthems. Sure, these tunes are toe-tappers to the CNMI electorate, but the outside world, which is where Somebody Else supposedly lives, isn't so enchanted with them.

Let's draw an important distinction here. This toxic Something Else ailment doesn't come from the hard working men and women who actually keep the apparatus of the local government working. The CNMI's clerks and administrators typically do excellent jobs. In fact, they're too busy doing actual work to invent the "Somebody Else" fairy tales to call attention to themselves.

Indeed, the Somebody Else chorus comes from, well, other folks who can't do any real work, I guess. Idle hands make for energetic jaws. They serve as examples of how obscenely clueless the Commonwealth's bloated bureaucracy can be.

I won't bother to offer a running inventory of our hilarious "investment" pipe-dreams, they are as close as your nearest newspaper, and have been running since I first started working in the CNMI all those years ago. The CNMI is, if nothing else, consistent on this score.

But the easy money from Asia has stopped flowing, the affordable labor is also in jeopardy, and the consistent showcasing of Somebody Else syndrome is carrying a comparatively larger penalty in the credibility realm, when a sober dose of truth is most needed.

The question I hear often, too often, is this: Are the people in the Commonwealth willing to really work at real jobs, or not? Or are they just going to talk about it, and yammer about these Somebody Else schemes all the time?

My answer runs like so: Yes, the people are perfectly willing

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at SaipanBlog.com and TropicalEd.com.



to work at real jobs. They are, in fact, excellent workers. However, they have accepted, time and time again, a situation in which a centrally-managed (read that, "mismanaged") economy is their framework for economics. The results are as obvious as they were predictable. Hence, the people often have no jobs to go to, but who can they blame for that? (Answer, of course: Somebody Else!)

And there's no change in sight. The CNMI is riding this economic disaster all the way into the ground. Like I said, at least we've

As for our perpetual man of the year, "Somebody Else," well, he ain't here. All that's left now is a cold, hard reality, and this reality is going to leave many Commonwealth families without any genuine economic hope.

The bottom line? Fairy tales are fun in books, but in economics they are very dangerous, because a rational world will always punish irrationality.

Saipan: What I like about you

airly often someone contacts me about the possibility of moving to Saipan, and wants to know about the good and bad of living here. I came up with about 10 key things that make Saipan a great place to live. Here are the first five.

It's a tropical island.

The weather is beautiful. The lows in the dead of winter are in the 80s and maybe the upper 70s. The water has incredible colors, and the island is small enough that you're almost always within sight of the ocean. The vegetation is lush. Life is simple. It's the sort of place people dream of retiring to. And we get to live here. Sometimes I'll become acutely aware of the incredible beauty around me, and just laugh with glee.

The sense of community.

More than anything else, relationships matter here. There is a strong sense of family and of community. Everyone knows everyone, and I think that results in an element of safety that doesn't exist in many parts of the world. Sure, there is still crime, but my kids can be out playing in the neighborhood without me thinking about it. They can wander off in the grocery store, and I don't panic. People look out for each other. There is no anonymity, so people tend to behave better and are more accountable, than in a large impersonal community. It's not quite Mayberry, but it's a rare day that I walk into a store and don't stop to talk to a few people I know.

Diversity.

Saipan is a mish-mash of people, cultures, languages, foods, and foibles. Because of the influx of contract workers over the years, there is such a broad mix of people that almost everyone is a minority. Besides the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian ethnicities, there are sizable populations of Filipinos, Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, Thais, and Bangladeshis. There is a smattering of Indian and Nepalese, a few displaced Europeans, some white people, and a few African-Americans. On most days, there are two Jamaicans on the island. If you don't like ethnic diversity, if you think you're right and everyone else has something to learn from you, this isn't the place for you. If you're from America, you'll experience what it's like to be a minority, and it'll make you a better person. The community is a rich place because of the diversity.

A Great Place for Kids.

All that toxic stuff that influences the minds of children and youth is a far away. It's still accessible, but it doesn't infuse the society and the culture. Television is not ubiquitous. Most people have no idea what last week's episode of America's favorite sitcom was all about

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D. Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eve Institute. Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through

www.MarianasEye.com, or leave comments at www.MarianasEye. blogspot.com. Copyright © 2008 David Khorram

(or even what the favorite one is). The cultural icons don't permeate our lives here. Kids grow up without many of the mental and emotional toxins of Western society.

Friends.

If I lived in America, my friends would be limited to people in my professional or in my social class. Here, those boundaries don't really exist. My friends are from all walks of life, ages, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. Over the years, they've included park rangers, Coast Guard officers, teachers, lawyers, business people, government officials and Cabinet members, houseworkers, gardeners, and people flipping switches at the utility.

Next week I'll round out the top 10 on my list.

A CRUCIAL

From Page 10

by federally-mandated minimum wage increases would be incomplete without also ensuring the well-being of both citizen and foreign workers during the transition. Citizens moving out of the public sector would benefit tremendously from unemployment and retraining assistance, for example, as well as small business development aid. The long-term foreign workers who have contributed to the local economy for years would benefit from improved immigration status that would ease restrictions on their ability to live and work in the Commonwealth. I ask that the Committee consider providing the appropriate funding and technical expertise to help facilitate the Commonwealth's transition to a new economy that is free from the old dependence on low-wage labor.

Much has been said about the U.S. Department of Labor's January 2008 study on the impact of increased minimum wages on American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. The study, by the Department's own admission, was significantly hampered by time constraints,

an inability to conduct field investigations, and a paucity of historical and contemporary labor market data. The Department notes, for example, that the Bureau of Labor Statistics does not collect any data describing labor market conditions in the Commonwealth, and that the Commonwealth is not included in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, or in surveys that generate data on industries, production, and household income and expenditures. Moreover, the Commonwealth lacks macroeconomic data collection and accounting systems technology that would be critical for the formulation of any objective economic assessment, including assessments of the impacts of wage increases in the Commonwealth.

The study was therefore inconclusive at best, yet it has unfortunately been used as ammunition to oppose future wage hikes in the Commonwealth. In particular, some have interpreted the study's observation that "the scheduled increase in the minimum wage to \$7.25 (by 2015) will likely affect at least 75% of wage and salary workers in the CNMI," and the comparison to the U.S. 75th percentile mark of \$16.50 for wage and salary workers, to mean that the mandated wage increases for the Commonwealth would be extremely untenable for the local economy. I respectfully submit that these figures simply underscore the fact that the Commonwealth's workers are disproportionately low-wage earners who would stand to benefit from increased wages, and that the Commonwealth's economy is and has been excessively dependent on low-wage labor. I further disagree with two assertions made in the Department of Labor study. The first is that the recent and scheduled minimum wage increases are likely to worsen the Commonwealth's economic decline. According to the study, "the lack of significant observed adverse employment effects in the months since the initial increase is not indicative that such effects will not emerge in the future." Given the limitations of the study and the lack of data, there is no way to objectively arrive at these conclusions. Indeed, it could also be argued that the lack of significant observed positive employment and other economic effects does not mean that such effects will not emerge in the future with continued wage increases.

The second assertion with which I disagree is that minimum wage increases could lead to more citizens leaving the Commonwealth for U.S. labor markets. Citizens are leaving now, and have been leaving for years because of depressed wages, the rising cost of living, limited opportunities in the private sector, and diminishing options in the public sector. It does not follow that they would leave in even greater numbers if wages are raised over the years. On the contrary, citizens are likelier to stay and work in the Commonwealth if their wages keep pace with the cost of living, and if they can realize meaningful quality of life improvements associated with wage increases and other economic reforms.

I respectfully submit that perhaps the most significant conclusion drawn from the Department of Labor's study is that there is no conclusion, and that no conclusion could be drawn because of the lack of historical and current labor market data. I ask that the Committee assist the Commonwealth in ensuring that we are included in federal labor market surveys, and help us develop the tools and expertise necessary to generate and analyze the data that would be necessary for future economic studies. I further ask that any future studies of the impacts of recent and future wage increases also consider the impacts of not raising wages in the Commonwealth. And finally, rather than postpone future wage increases in the Commonwealth

for lack of data about adverse effects, I request that we continue with the wage increases as scheduled for lack of the same data.

Raising the minimum wage in the Commonwealth will obviously not solve all the problems facing our people today, but it is a crucial step in the right direction. The federally-mandated wage increases may entail some adjustments at first, but these are adjustments that can be made with enough resourcefulness, foresight, and resolve within our own community, and certainly with some federal assistance, if granted. In the long run, if raising the minimum wage can help bring about improved wages for all, better working conditions, a more robust and diversified private sector, expanded opportunities for citizens to live and work in the Commonwealth, a reduced reliance on labor-intensive industries and low-wage foreign labor, and parity between the public and private sectors, then the initial adjustment period will be well worth it, and future generations will realize a quality of life that is better than what we have today.

Public Law 110-28 presents an opportunity for the Commonwealth to begin to reinvent itself. I appeal to the members of the Committee to support the continuation of the minimum wage increases as scheduled.

12 FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲84° ▼72°

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Fast winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲82° ▼74°



Partly cloudy with

▲80°

isolated showers.

▼74°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲81° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲82° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Partly Sunny ▲84 ▼72 Palau Thundershowers ▲ 85 ▼77 Yap Partly Sunny ▲85 ▼76 Chuuk Thunderstorms ▲88 ▼78 Pohnpei Thundershowers ▲ 88 ▼79 Kosrae Mostly Cloudy ▲86 ▼74 Majuro Thunderstorms ▲84 ▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 72	₹55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 59	₹34
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲ 72	▼ 63
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 79	▼ 68
London	Showers	▲ 48	▼37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 75	▼ 51
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 84	▼ 73
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲ 77	▼ 54
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲ 87	₹74
New York	Showers	▲ 48	▼ 36
Osaka	Showers	▲ 47	▼37
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 48	▼ 33
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 53	▼33
Rome	Rain	▲ 54	₹38
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 54	▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64	₹47
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 48	▼27
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 50	▼37

Washington, DC Rain

WAKE **AGRIHAN** SAIPAN GUAM **MAJURO**

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM. THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front runs southwestward from 25N165E to 18N150E then continues as a shear line to the north of Saipan at 16N146E to beyond 130E at 10N. Extensive cloudiness and areas of rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the cold front. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of the shear line. Low cumulus clouds are seen north of the shear line to beyond 25N. Convergent trade-winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 9N130E to 6N137E to 7N143E. A surface trough extends northeastward from EQ156E to 8N163E then turns northward to 13N162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with the trough are forming over Pohnpei and Kosrae States. This area is bounded by a line from 14N160E to 6N154E to 3N163E to 5N165E back to 14N160E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers over and east of Majuro between 3N and 10N from 170E to 180.

		THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN	Name and Address of the Owner, where	Service Squares	_
ides		Su	et	1	
A Driver		Today	6:30AM	6:26PM	Too
Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	Saturday	6:30AM	6:26PM	Sat
High Tide:	2.0 Feet	Sunday	6:29AM	6:26PM	Sur
Low Tide:	0.7 Feet	Monday	6:28AM	6:26PM	Мо
High Tide:	2.0 Feet	Tuesday	6:28AM	6:27PM	Tue
	Low Tide: High Tide: Low Tide:	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet High Tide: 2.0 Feet Low Tide: 0.7 Feet	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet Saturday High Tide: 2.0 Feet Sunday Low Tide: 0.7 Feet Monday	Today 6:30AM Low Tide: 0.2 Feet Saturday 6:30AM High Tide: 2.0 Feet Sunday 6:29AM Low Tide: 0.7 Feet Monday 6:28AM	Today 6:30AM 6:26PM Low Tide: 0.2 Feet Saturday 6:30AM 6:26PM High Tide: 2.0 Feet Sunday 6:29AM 6:26PM Low Tide: 0.7 Feet Monday 6:28AM 6:26PM

▲50 ▼38

MOC	nrise/mooi	nset
Today	05:55AM	06:01PM
Saturday	06:35AM	06:56PM
Sunday	07:15AM	07:52PM
Monday	07:57AM	08:51PM
Tuesday	08:42AM	09:52PM

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- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration

NMI CRIME

STOPPERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ TRÁVELOGUE

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

through the following:

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2008

Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7 Saipan-Guam CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1.2.5.6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya

NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily

NW 083 4:30pm 7:25pm Daily

Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7

170

Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590 4:20am 7:00am 2,6

Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

Guam-Hongkong CO 909 7:45pm 10:40pm 1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

ARRIVALS Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1.2.6 **Guam-Saipan** CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:40am 3:10pm Daily Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1.2.3.4.5.6 **Busan-Saipan** OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7 Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5 Shanghai-Saipan MU 589 8:05pm 3:00am+1 1,5 Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7

CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6

CO 892 9:45pm 5:25am+1 3 via Koror

CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror

CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror

11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily

10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7

and Yap

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

PR 110

Hongkong-Guam

Rota-Guam

CO 910 11:40pm 6:20am+1 1,5

CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency
Guam-R	ota		
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Sa	ipan		
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-l	Rota		
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Gu	am		
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-R			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Sa	•		
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-l			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-G		7.45	D ::
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-1		0.55	Б.1
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105 FRE 107	8:00am 8:40am	8:10am 8:50am	Daily
FRE 107 FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 109	9. 10am 10:45am	9.20am 10:55am	Daily Daily
LUE III	10.45am	10.558111	Dally

ETD ETA Frequency FRE 113 11:40am 11:50am Dailv FRE 115 1:00pm 1:10pm Daily FRE 117 2:30pm 2:40pm Daily FRE 119 4:00pm 4:10pm Daily FRE 121 4:40pm 4:50pm Daily 5:40pm 5:50pm FRE 123 * Daily FRE 125 * 6:00pm 6:10pm Daily

Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**

7:05am 7:15am FRF 102 Daily FRE 104 7:50am 8:00am Daily FRE 106** 8:20am 8:30am FRE 108** 9:00am 9:10am Daily FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily 11:05am 11:15am FRF 112 Daily FRE 114 12:00pm 12:10pm Daily FRE 116 1:30pm 1:40pm 2:50pm 3:00pm FRE 118 FRE 120** 4:20pm 4:30pm Daily 5:00pm 5:10pm FRE 122** Daily FRE 124 6:05pm 6:15pm Daily FRE 126 6:20pm 6:30pm Daily

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Letters to the Editor

Thank you for supporting the Rota San Isidro Fiesta

The Saipan subcommittee of the Rota San Isidro Fiesta recently held a successful benefit concert at the Garapan Central Park. The concert featured talented local artists from the CNMI. Putting up such an event has been a rewarding and humbling experience. If it were not for the financial support and in-kind donations received from generous individuals and companies, we would not have realized

such a success. It is encouraging to know that there are those who are willing to unselfishly give to good causes, even during these times of tribulation. These people and businesses still found ways to assist the community of Rota by attending the concert and donating to the Rota San Isidro Church and Fiesta.

We appreciate the fact that our neighboring brothers, sisters and friends on Saipan came to

More praise for CHC

This long overdue letter was prompted by the letter from my friend, Dr Ken, and his praise of CHC. I too have to give my praises of CHC.

On the first of October of last year I returned from Nigeria after completing a work assignment. The next day I came down with a fever and went to the hospital for treatment. They took some blood for analysis and the next day I was told to get to the hospital for treatment of malaria. The doctors immediately put me in sedation, where I stayed under for two weeks. They called my parents and told them that I may not recover. The next day they flew out from the Portland, Oregon.

My father is a retired doctor who was able to understand the seriousness of my illness. After observing the CHC staff and the care that they were providing me he later said that he knew that I was in good hands. I was told afterwards that I could not have been sicker without actually dying. However, the efforts of my doctors and the other medical staff at CHC kept me alive and since then I have had a full recovery.

The doctor in charge of my case spent many hours on the phone with the CDC in Hawaii trying to figure out the best way to treat my illness. My father was very impressed with her efforts. At the risk of embarrassing her I must give my recognition of her efforts to save my life. Dr Laura Shevy is a godsend and in my mind, is a world-class doctor without a doubt. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for Dr. Shevy's efforts and that of the other ICU staff from CHC. As much as CHC gets bad press, I cannot disagree more. They saved my life and that is what matters to me.

Ted Lahti Dandan, Saipan

Stop making excuses

Boni Sagana, president of the Dekada organization, should stop making excuses for their own creation. This individual, along with his constituents, have long enjoyed, prospered and benefited from the flaws and loopholes of our past Labor and Immigration system. Today he is still looking for reasons to further prolong his stay in our homeland. Sagana is blatantly contradicting his own quest for a fair Labor and Immigration reform. The fact remains that without further studies and research, their aggression had led to repatriations of innocent nonresident guest workers. For example, their demand for higher minimum wages had led to non-renewal of contracts simply because companies cannot afford the new federal minimum wages, including additional benefits attached. Bonnie Sagana is now looking for someone else to blame for his mistakes without such studies.

With all due respect to the entire nonresident guest workers, Taotao Tano applauds, recognizes, and considers the many contributions each and everyone had contributed to our homeland and they all should be highly commended. Everyone needs to understand the position Taotao Tano requested during the legislative field hearing on H.R. 3079 and that is neither yes or no to federalization, but a request for a stay was placed due to the absence of economic studies and the inconsistencies in labor abuse and human smuggling data being reported and gathered by both federal government and foreign organizations, including human rights advocates.

The CNMI is in political union with the United States and our Covenant agreement and right to self-governance is being challenged. A stay in the federal matter was a high priority for Taotao Tano, and the evidence of the current federal minimum wage is clear and speaks for itself, although we supported a higher minimum wage increase, our current economic situation is unable to sustain such increases. It is unfortunate for the nonresident guest workers but beneficial for the local U.S. residents.

Public Law 15-108 is a good law and we believe that the proponents have made amendments to better assist nonresident guest workers and local U.S. residents alike.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.

President, Taotao Tano CNMI Association Inc.

the aid of the Rota community. We are thankful for the tremendous support and display of volunteerism offered. We the subcommittee feel that "no good deed should go unmentioned." With that said, we would like to thank the following donors:

- 2008 Rota San Isidro Fiesta Com-
- Saipan Tribune
- Marianas Variety
- Mr. & Mrs. Jesse and Tricia Seman
- Rota San Isidro Church Parish
- lanueva
- Ina'tua Dancers

- Miss Ana Maria A Inos
- Mr. Jim Ayuyu & Ms. Valencia Teno-
- Joeten Enterprises
- Mr. Candido "The Pilung" Taman
- Coca Cola Beverages Company
- Payless Supermarket
- Mr. Kool Santos & Ms. Helen Ca-

- Mr. & Mrs. Roy and Elaine Matago-
- XO Market
- Ms. Carla San Nicolas
- Mr. Ray Kaipat)
- Mr. & Mrs. Zardo and Mary Faith Vil-
- Freedom Air
- Mr. Jonas Barcinas

- Mr. Ace Elameto
- Miss Joserin Mendiola
- Miss Pauline Mendiola
- Mr. Parker
- macho
- Mr. Chris Selepeo "Tats"
- Pacific Islands Club
- Mr. Dean Manglona
- Bandage Boys: (Mr John Taitano &
- Marpac
- Mr. Victor Val Hocog and Ms. Leticia Palacios
- Pacific Telecommunications Inc.
- Mr. & Mrs. Kent and Karen Kalen

- Mr. Kevin Atalia
- Blue Marlin 1
- Mr. Fred Ngeskebei
- Mr. Marvin Guerrero
- Mr. Joannes Taimanao

■ Mr. Joe Jr. Inos

- Senator Paul Manglona
- Mr. Daniel Quitugua
- Mr. & Mrs. Ross and Julie Man-
- Ms. Imelda Mamaril
- Mr. & Mrs. Melchor and Daisy Men-
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- Mr. Richard Maratita
- Congressman Victor Hocog
- Mr. & Mrs. David and Rose Ayuyu
- Congressman Joseph Camacho
- Mr. Fainua Petrus
- Saipan Mayor's Office
- Mr. Kroy Ogo ■ Rota Mayor's Office Channel 5

- Mr. Marcian Jr. Manglona
- Division of Parks & Recreation
- Mr. Justin Taitano
- Department of Lands & Natural Re-
- Mr. Patrick Pangelinan
- Crime Prevention Unit
- Mr. Ray DLCruz
- Beautify CNMI
- Mr. & Mrs. Joe and Mel Litulumar
- 2007 Rota San Isidro Fiesta Queen, Miss Naomi M. Sasaki
- Mr. Charles Mendiola
- Mr. Dennis Taisacan
- 2007 Miss Teen, Miss Kayla Dee M. Atalia
- Mr. & Mrs. Ton and Ida Kapileo
- Power 99
- Mr. Beautiful Vernon Manglona

For those of you in attendance, we extend our sincere gratitude. Please continue your unselfish deeds and may God bless you all. Biba San Isidro!

Ross Manglona

Rota

Saturday Sale!

March 8, 2008 • 10:00AM to 2:00PM 99 Cents Supermarket (Garapan)













Nokia 1600 (GSM Dual-Band)

Prepaid w/TDMA Trade

Regular Buy: \$65.00

Motorola L6 SLIVER (GSM Quad-Band Camera Phone)

Prepaid w/TDMA Trade

Regular Buy: \$130.00

Kyocera KX112 (CDMA)

Prepaid w/ TDMA Trade or Regular Buy

LG 6100

(CDMA Camera Phone)

Prepaid w/TDMA Trade

or Regular Buy



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GSM Phones includes PTI GSM SIM Card & Free \$20.00 Load ** CDMA Phones with TDMA Trade includes Free \$25.00 Load * Regular buy includes Free \$10.00 Load SIM Cards expires 90 days AFTER LAST USE • \$20 Load expires 60 days AFTER 1ST USE *** Cannot keep number • while supplies last • No phonebook transfer • Credit cards not accepted • some conditions apply ernment is foresight and real leadership.

We need to act now. We have to find a way. If tapping the land trust funds to

Letters to the Editor

Act now on power crisis

Last Sunday on the front page of the Pacific Daily News, there was an article on the Guam Power Authority's plan to harness the power of the wind to generate electricity.

The CNMI government, together with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials, should work together in gradually shifting from diesel fuel to renewable

energy alternatives in the generation of electricity. At the present price of oil, alternative energy appear to be more attractive if we factor in the cost benefit and the environmental benefit in the long run. I believe the government has the land available on all three islands for a wind turbine generator and solar power farm. What appears to be lacking in our gov-

solve our pressing problems is needed, then put your heads together and work on that immediately. We cannot attract investors if we appear to them that we depend on them to solve our problems. What we need is leadership. Remember that leadership is about action not position. So far

> Francisco M. Atalig Sinapalo I, Rota

there seems to be no action. Why?

Illegal arrest

The Kazuyoshi Miura case is a huge case of human and civil rights abuse. The Governor of California has not demanded that Mr. Kazuyoshi Miura be arrested. The executive authority (Governor) has also never demanded that Saipan authorities arrest Mr. Kazuyoshi Miura. This case is now about a kidnapping in violation of U.S. federal law Title 18 U.S.C.A. section 1201.

The arrest of Mr. Kazuyoshi Miura without the warrants of these two governors also violate Title 18 U.S.C.A. sections 2, 3, 4, 241, 242, 3182 and 3195. Because no Governor has made a demand for Mr. Kazuyoshi Miura to be arrested, the failure of the judge to release Mr. Kazuyoshi Miura is grounds for his immediate impeachment. The extradition laws are set forth under California Penal Code sections 1547 et seq. The extradition laws for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is set forth under Title 6 sections 6901 et seq.

When, and only when, the governors demand an arrest in writing, may a person be detained. This is precisely the argument Saipan attorney Bruce Berline is making. This is precisely what

Berline meant when he says the arrest is illegal. This is a massive violation of Mr Kazuvoshi Miura's civil and human rights; and he is entitled to seek huge damages from all who are participating in the conspiracy to detain and extradite without governors' warrants.

A copy of your news is being submitted to the Congress of the United States and the United States Attorney General for criminal investigation and judicial impeachment.

Emanuel McCray San Diego, CA

Reaction

Wow, after reading "4 reasons," what the business leaders of the CNMI are worried about the new S.2483 seems to be that the contract workers will no longer be here after 4.5 years.

Many places have undergone economic transformation and it is painful in the short run. Micronesian and USA citizens will have to fulfill the changing job market.

William Weiss' letter about minimum wage also seems to be moving toward what I have advocated. He wrote a very informative letter. While I don't believe a word of

Wishful thinking

Mr. William McCue is entitled to his opinion, no matter how weird it is and what his motive is in stating that the CNMI will be fine without the contract workers.

However, I'm writing to share what Jim Arenovski, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce; Lynn Knight, chairperson of HANMI, and Gov. Benigno Fitial said in the general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday. All of them categorically said that the CNMI needs the guest workers! No one raised a hand when Jim asked if there's any member who doesn't need

federalization bill. I stated in my last letter my views-if those happen with this bill, then so be it. By the way, I did not mean to single out citizens of the Philippines in my last letter;

the federal government as to what will hap-

pen, perhaps contract workers who want to

stay in the CNMI ought be AGAINST the

contract workers come from many coun-

William McCue Wellington, FL

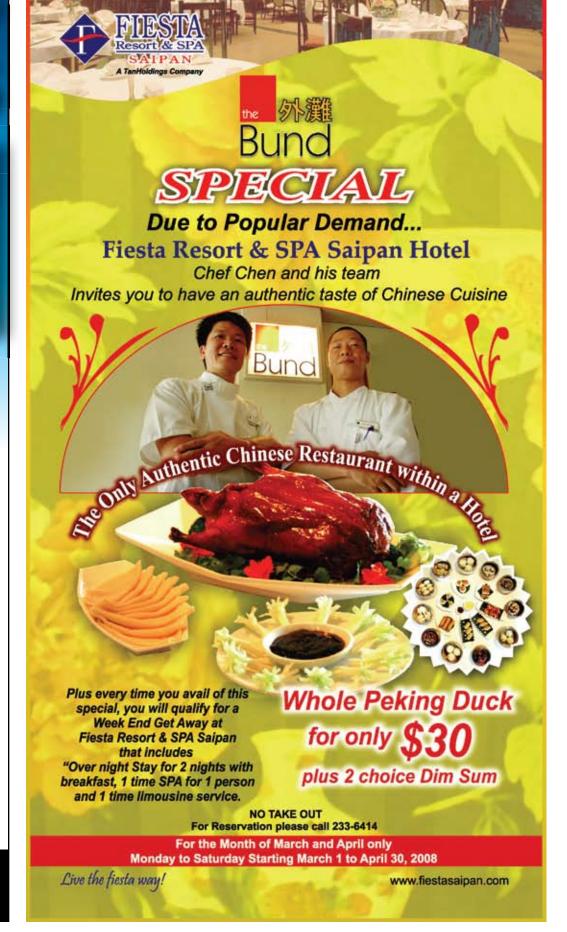
guest workers.

The CNMI needs 30,000 in the workplace today. Unfortunately, only 12,000 are locals. That means guest workers have to fill 18,000 positions to make this economy work.

The CNMI needs guest workers years ago and it will continue to need us, like it or not. The CNMI cannot survive without the guest workers. Guest workers are not going back to where we come from because we are needed here.

Irene N. Tantiado Capital Hill, Saipan





A nasty little thing called oral cancer

By DR. CRYSTAL A. EDMISTER D.D.S. SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author works for the Seventh-day Adventist Dental Clinic.

Oral Cancer Facts

Oral cancer strikes 34,360 Americans annually. About 7.550 of those diagnosed with oral cancer will die from it each year. Oral cancer, or cancer of the mouth, often begins in one's mouth as a small red or white spot, but can grow rapidly and even spread into other parts of the body. Did you know that oral cancer is as common as leukemia and kills more people than either cervical cancer or melanoma (skin cancer)? Only half of the patients diagnosed with oral cancer will live more than five years.

Oral Cancer Risk Factors

Tobacco and alcohol use are the greatest contributors to oral cancer. Prolonged sun exposure increases the risk of lip cancer. Oral cancer is more likely to strike those over the age of 40. However, a surprising 25 percent of people who are diagnosed with oral cancer have no predisposing risk factors – meaning they *don't* smoke, chew or drink alcohol. Chewing betel nut causes constant irtongue. Over time, tissue cells in these irritated areas can begin to change into unhealthy, abnormal cells and possibly change into cancer cells.

Detection & Prevention

Abnormal tissue cells can exhibit themselves in the mouth in the form of red or white spots. Some of these areas are harmless and benign. Some areas are pre-cancerous which means that the cells will develop into cancer cells if they are not detected early and removed. Some of these red or white spots are cancerous and need to be removed immediately. Areas which can be affected include the lips, gums, cheeks, tongue and the hard or soft palate.

Signs of oral cancer can include:

- A color change in oral tis-
- A sore that bleeds easily or does not heal within two weeks
- A lump, thickening, crust, sore or rough spot
- Pain, tenderness or numbness anywhere in the mouth or on the lips
- A change in the way teeth fit together
- Difficulty swallowing, chewing, speaking or moving the jaw or tongue

A key of early detection



six months for an oral cancer screening exam. The good news is that it's now easier than ever to detect oral cancer early, when the opportunity for a cure is high. Oral cancer is one of the

\$**349**.95

most curable diseases when it's caught early! Your dentist has the skills and tools to ensure that early signs of cancer and precancerous conditions are detected. So help to prolong your

life by stopping bad habits that predispose one to getting oral cancer, like smoking and chewing and drinking alcohol. Use sunscreen on your lips when outdoors. Studies have also shown that eating a diet high in fruits and vegetables may prevent the development of potentially cancerous lesions.

ViziLite Plus

The Seventh-day Adventist Clinic continually looks for all dental advances in technology to ensure we are providing the optimum level of oral health care to our patients. We are concerned about oral cancer in the CNMI and look for it in every patient. We have recently incor-

porated ViziLite Plus into our oral screening standard of care. We've found that using ViziLite Plus along with a standard head and neck oral cancer exam improves the ability to identify suspicious areas at their earliest stages. ViziLite Plus is similar to proven early detection procedures for other cancers such as mammography, Pap smear, and PSA for prostate cancer detection. ViziLite Plus is a painless and simple exam that can help to identify abnormal tissues and minimize the potentially disfiguring effects of oral cancer and possibly save your life.

You and your dentist can fight & win the battle against oral cancer. Remember these early detection signs, try to reduce your risk by quitting smoking, chewing, and drinking, and see your dentist regularly for an oral cancer screening exam.

ritation to the cheeks, gums and is to visit your dentist every EPA-9 certifies DEQ's lab for nitrate, nitrite testing

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9 laboratory has certified the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality laboratory for the chemical analysis of Total Nitrate + Nitrite in drinking water by EPA method 353.2. Full certification shall be effective until February 2011.

According to EPA Region 9 Laboratory Certification Officer Jack Berges, the DEQ lab equipment and facilities met the requirements for the certification of the laboratory for measurement of inorganic chemical contaminants in drinking water samples under the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act.

Previously, public water systems were required to submit nitrate/nitrite samples to off island DEQ-certified labs.

With this DEQ lab certification, PWS samples shall be analyzed on island using the Lachat autoanalyzer system for nitrate/nitrite analysis by EPA Method 353.2 by the DEQ laboratory. (DEQ)



HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY

parents-Jovi and Magie-and sister Kaithlyn.

Birthday greetings go out to Mark Jainier Chavez who will be celebrating his second birthday today, March 7. Greetings come from your



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Angel wows 'em all in Grand Diva finals

The finals night of the Grand ing Gown award. Her winning Amazing Showgirls was a success Thursday night, with hundreds of guests packing the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

The name of the venue proved lucky for Angel, who was declared the Grand Champion after two intense rounds of lip sync competition against 15 other grand divas. Angel, who works for Hibiscus Salon, was also a winner of the Best in Production Number trophy.

The other winners were Sharmaine of ASKS Beauty of Ystilo Salon, second runner up; Monique of Island Floral, third runner up; and Lyka of Marianas Resort and Spa, fourth runner up.

Monique of Island Floral also took home the PTI Diva Star Grand Champion award after garnering the most number of text votes from supporters, as well as the Most Amazentry was a fiery red ballroom gown.

The PTI Diva Star first runner up was Jaz of Trends Beauty Salon, while the PTI Diva Star second runner up was Krystala of Dianne Beauty Salon.

Other awards that were handed out to the contestants included:

- Most Amazing Make-up, Lyka of Marianas Resort and
- Miss Funny Valentine, Lyka of Marianas Resort and Spa
- Most Amazing Hairstyle, Salon, first runner up; Patricia Linda Cullen from Miramar Reflexology
 - Most Amazing Beauty, Venus of Serenity Salon and Spa
 - Most Amazing Impersonator, Jackielyn Bernabe of Kirei Salon
 - Most Amazing Dancer, Jackielyn Bernabe of Kirei
 - Miss Congeniality, Linda Cullen of Miramar Reflexology



The Magic 5 winners pose with the PTI Diva Stars. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Magic 5: From left, Patricia, Lyka, Monique, Sharmaine, and Angel.



Angel poses with the panel of

judges after being declared the Grand Champion.



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Realty Management services is a fullservice property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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- 20% discount on drinks after happy hour at the Chambre Bar
- Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Patricia performs a Broadway inspired number.





		USED	CA	RS			
STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE
GM C	ARS						
R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	8,999
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	8,699
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	9,599
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999
U07-075R	2005	EPICA 4DR.	AUTO	10098	BEIGE	ACA-204	8,999
TOYO	TA	TRUCKS	ı				
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X4 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	12,500
		ARS & TRUCKS					
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	11,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,999
U07-108P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	45099	SILVER	ADF-431	8,999
U07-109P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	43869	SILVER	ADF-371	8,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	16,799
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999
U07-118T	2004	MAZDA MX3 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	33366	SILVER	ADH-312	12,799
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899
VANS		AIFAMA W. F	ALITO	00700	ODAY	100 504	
U07-096T	2000	SIENNA XLE	AUTO	92766	GRAY	ACO-561	8,999
R08-001F	2004	SIENNA LE	AUTO	164483	WHITE	ABY-567	12,999
CDO							
		TILITY	ALITO	E0000	VIIVIDAIONE	ADV 450	40 500
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	13,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799
U07-082P	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		13,599



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Job bias charges increase in 2007

WASHINGTON—The U.S. EEOC: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission received a total of 82,792 private sector discrimination charge filings last fiscal year, the highest volume of incoming charges since 2002 and the largest annual increase (9 percent) since the early 1990s, the agency reported yesterday as part of its Fiscal Year 2007 enforcement and litigation statistics.

The data, available online at www.eeoc.gov, also show that the EEOC recovered \$345 million in monetary relief for job bias victims.

"Corporate America needs to do a better job of proactively preventing discrimination and addressing complaints promptly and effectively," said Commission Chair Naomi C. Earp. "To ensure that equality of opportunity becomes a reality in the 21st century workplace, employers need to place a premium on fostering inclusive and discrimination-free work environments for all individuals."

According to the EEOC's FY 2007 data, allegations of discrimination based on race, retaliation, and sex were the most frequently filed charges, continuing a long-term trend. Additionally, nearly all major charge categories showed double digit percentage increases from the prior year—a rare occurrence. The jump in charge filings may be due to a combination of factors, including greater awareness of the law, changing economic conditions, and increased diversity and demographic shifts in the labor force.

Last year, for the first time, retaliation was the second highest charge category (behind race), surpassing sex-based charges in total filings with EEOC offices nationwide. Historically, race has been the most frequently filed charge since the EEOC became operational in 1965. In addition to the statutory bases of discrimination, charges filed with the EEOC and state and local Fair Employment Practices Agencies (combined) also trended upward for the high visibility issues of pregnancy discrimination and sexual harassment.

During FY 2007, pregnancy charges surged to a record high level of 5,587, up 14 percent from the prior fiscal year's record of 4,901. Sexual harassment filings increased for the first time since FY 2000, numbering 12,510—up 4 percent from the prior fiscal year's total of 12,025. Additionally, a record 16 percent of sexual harassment charges were filed by men, up from 9 percent in the early 1990s.

Other year-end statistics released yesterday show that the

- Recovered approximately \$345 million in total monetary relief for charging parties, up 26 percent from the prior year's total of \$274 million. Nearly \$55 million was obtained through EEOC litigation and more than \$290 million through administrative enforcement, including mediation. Additionally, the agency obtained substantial non-monetary relief, such as employer training, policy implementation, reasonable accommodations, and other measures to promote discrimination-free workplaces.
- Resolved 72,442 private sector charges, with a historically high merit factor rate of 23 percent. Merit factor resolutions include mediation and other settlements and cause findings, which, if not successfully conciliated, are considered for litigation. Most meritorious charges are resolved voluntarily with employers prior to any EEOC litigation.
- Resolved a record 8,649 charges through its voluntary National Mediation Program (up 5 percent from the prior year's record high), with a user satisfaction rate of 96 percent indicating that nearly all participants would return to the program in the future. At the end of FY 2007, the EEOC had entered into 1,269 Universal Agreements to Mediate (UAMs) with employers nationwide (154 national/regional UAMs and 1,115 local UAMs)—a 15 percent increase from the FY 2006 level.
- Filed 336 merits lawsuits (direct suits, interventions and other enforcement actions), including 116 class cases involving multiple aggrieved parties or victims of discriminatory policies. Significant injunctive and remedial relief was also achieved through litigation settlements, jury trials and court rulings. The agency's litigation program increasingly focused on class and systemic cases as part of its national law firm model.
- Conducted a record 5,658 outreach, education and technical assistance events nationwide, reaching nearly 280,000 people. The EEOC's national outreach initiatives include E-RACE (Eradicating Racism And Colorism from Employment), Youth@Work, and LEAD (Leadership for the Employment of Americans with Disabilities). Other outreach programs focused on EEOCenforced laws, mediation, and small business.

The EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Further information about the federal agency is available on its web site at www.eeoc.gov. (EEOC)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 19

Pacific

Aussie theme park buys Hawaii attraction

By DAVID BRISCOE ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KAPOLEI, Hawaii (AP)—Australia's biggest theme park owner-operator is taking over the closest thing Hawaii has to an amusement park for residents and tourists.

Village Roadshow Limited signed an agreement Wednesday to pay \$27 million for the assets of Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park, including its 29 acres (12 hectares) of water rides and attractions in Kapolei, park officials announced

Jerry Pupillo, park president, said operators are "thrilled to have the opportunity to work with worldwide industry leaders like Village Roadshow Limited to help the park grow to its fullest potential."

He said, in a news release, that the Australian company is committed to investing in the park, its employees and its future.

"We are looking into the possibility with community and government support of developing five to seven acres within the

next few years and look forward to breaking ground on a new attraction that will open this summer," Pupillo said, without offering details.

Graham Burke, VRL managing director, said the existing Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park would be developed into "a world class, family orientated water park experience in a spectacular 30-acre tropical setting, to which we can apply our highly successful Gold Coast formula that has created one of the world's most successful water parks."

He said Mr Chaudhry had also

invited him to take the necessary

action to examine the allegations

When asked whether he

would take up Mr Chaudhry's

offer, Commodore Bainimara-

ma told a press conference he

would decide on that later. Yes-

terday, Mr Chaudhry declined

to comment on the issue. Per-

manent Secretary in the PM's

Office Parmesh Chand neither

confirmed nor denied the ex-

istence of a letter written by

Commodore Bainimarama to

and make the findings public.

VRL reports that 4.2 million people visited its theme parks on Queensland's Gold Coast in the fiscal year ending June 30.

Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park is Hawaii's only water theme amusement park, with a variety of water rides and other attractions that attract about 348,000 visitors a year.

With 1.2 million residents and 7 million tourists a year, Hawaii has a variety of man-made attractions, including the popular Polynesian Cultural Center with villages representing several Pacific cultures, but there currently is no permanent amusement

nark in the islands

Among VRL's attractions in Australia are Warner Bros. Movie World, Sea World, the Australian Outback Spectacular, and Wet 'n' Wild Water World, which it describes as one of the world's largest and most successful water parks.

Fiji military council seeks Chaudhry withdrawal

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)— The Fiji Military Council has advised the interim Prime Minister to ask his Finance Minister to step aside while a full-scale independent inquiry into his personal tax affairs gets underway.

The members of the council presented the submission to Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama at a meeting this week, military spokesman Lt-Col Sitiveni Qiliho confirmed.

He declined to divulge more details on the submission except to say that they would accept whatever decision Commodore Bainimarama made. "That is a matter between the Prime Minister and Mr Chaudhry and whatever decision he makes we will accept that," he said yesterday.

When contacted yesterday for a comment, Commodore Bainimarama said that whatever he needed to tell Mahendra Chaudhry was between him and his minister.

"The issue with Mr Chaudhry is just between him and myself and no one else," he said. "When I am ready to tell the people of this nation, then I will do so."

A source said the council met

with its commander on Monday at Government Buildings to discuss Mr Chaudhry's tax matters.

"When we met, we told the Commander that it is wise for the minister to step aside for transparency sake and in the best interest of the nation," the source said. "It is also under the PSC rules, that if someone is implicated, then they should step aside for an investigation to be carried out. We told the PM that this is the best thing to do."

Another source said Commodore Bainimarama was supposed to have written to Mr Chaudhry, asking him to step aside so that the allegations against him could be investigated.

This newspaper revealed last month that Mr Chaudhry was the minister at the centre of allegations of not having declared or paid taxes on an alleged amount of AU\$1.6 million held in overseas bank and investment accounts.

Commodore Bainimarama had said that he directed Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority to investigate the allegations when they first surfaced last year.

He said FIRCA cleared Mr Chaudhry of any wrongdoing.

SUNTORY Merma Manager File Resignary

EPIC VOYAGEKen-ichi Horie, of Japan, stands in front of his wave-powered boat, the Suntory Mermaid II, at the Hawaii Yacht Club, Tuesday, March 4, 2008 in Honolulu. Later this month, Horie plans to start a solo voyage across

Vanuatu ready to trade under PICTA

WELLINGTON, March 3 (Xinhua/PIR)—The government of the South Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu has completed the domestic requirements to be able to trade under the terms and conditions of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA).

In a communication to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) this week, the Government of Vanuatu advised PIFS that it was ready to trade under PICTA, the PIFS said in a press release on Monday.

Vanuatu is the sixth country to formally announce the completion of domestic requirements to enable trading under PICTA, after the Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Solomon Islands.

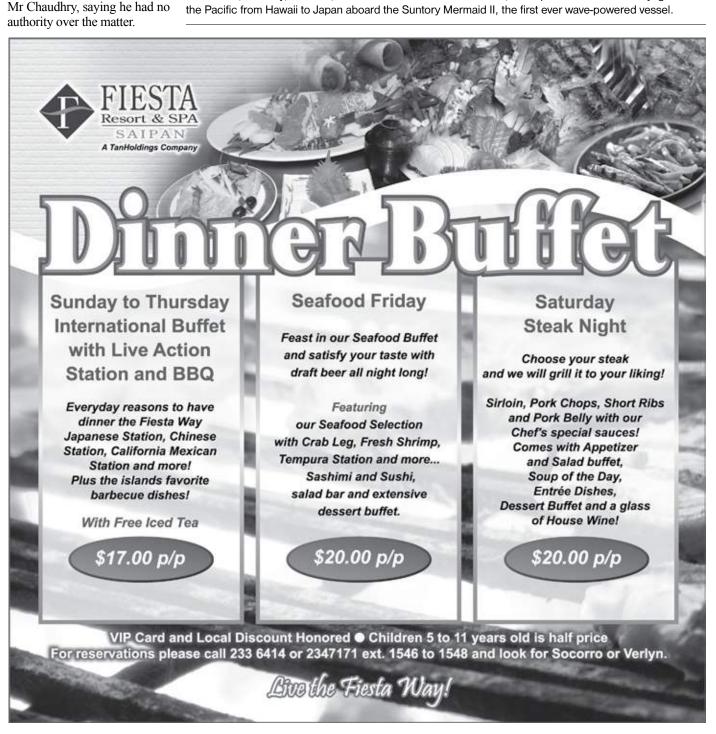
"Vanuatu is committed to the deepening of trade in the region. PICTA provides the opportunity for the private sector to gain from trade preferences when exporting

to the Forum Island Countries. I encourage the private sector in the region to explore these opportunities and increase intra-regional trade," said James Bule, Vanuatu's minister of trade.

PICTA provides for the gradual reduction of import duties on goods that originate from the Forum Island Countries. The reduction of import duties have commenced since Jan. 1 2007 for some countries party to PICTA, while for others it will commence on Jan. 1, 2009.

"Vanuatu's announcement shows the renewed commitment from the FICs in supporting increased trade among the FICs," said Feleti Teo, Acting Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

He encouraged the remaining FICs to expeditiously carry out their outstanding requirements under PICTA as urged by the Forum leaders.



20 FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Island Snapshots



AWARD RECEPTION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio with U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. John P. deJongh, Jr. following presentation of the 2008 Alexander Hamilton Public Service Award to U.S. Senators John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT).



ONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ma

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for the RUNWAY 7/25 REHABILITATION at the FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PACKAGE 2, Phase 1, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-50/53 will be received at the office of the ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, until 2:00 p.m., Friday, April 4, 2008, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of: Connection of storm drainage pipe to the new water reservoir, excavation through parallel Taxiway "A", demolishing and filling of the existing reservoir site; conversion of Taxiway "A" into a temporary runway including removal to taxiway lights and installation of runway lights, and storm drainage system.

The project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bid in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the Phase 1 project in its entirety shall be <u>Three Hundred Sixty (360) calendar days</u>. Liquidated damages for each phase shall be in accordance with G-100-3.4. The Contractor shall be assessed liquidated damages for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsible or responsive", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-25 of the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents, including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set CD-Rom of plan documents. This amount is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, U.S. postal money order, or cashiers check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 10:00 a.m. on <u>Monday. March 17, 2008</u> to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to CPA, in writing to the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at least seven (7) days in advance for answers at this pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of \$50,000 or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid proposal price of the Phase 1 total construction amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA Acting Executive Director Date: February 29, 2008

Along with Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio, other guests at the 2008 Alexander Public Service Award reception included, from left, Office of Insular Affairs CNMI-Guam Desk Officer Frank Taitano, Edward Pangelinan, Emet Saures, Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Jim Arenovski, former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director and now General Manager of Ports Authority of Guam Carlos Salas, and Walter Villagomez.

MARIANAS HOUSE VISITORS

Resident Representative
Pete A. Tenorio poses
with Jack Sablan and
Jack Kiyoshi of The Napu
Life Foundation. Both are
currently in Washington
D.C., attending the Asian
and Pacific Islander
American Health Forum
on Aids.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





Resident Representative Pete A.
Tenorio poses with Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski during the Chamber official's recent trip to the nation's capital.

STRENGTHENING CNMI-PALAU FRIENDSHIP

Resident Representative Pete A.
Tenorio and staff were invited to a reception held on Capitol Hill concluding the visit of Palau President Tommy Remengesau who was in Washington, D.C., attending the 10th Annual Coral Reef Task Force meeting. In photo with Resident Representative Tenorio and President Remengesau are, from left, Jody Abraham, Herbert Yamada, Emet Saures, Palau Ambassador to the U.S. Hersey Kyota, and Walter Villagomez.



NEW MONUMENT
Department of Lands and
Natural Resources Forestry division staff James Babauta rakes
the soil after planting seedling
around the new monument in
Grotto as a beautification project
Monday afternoon. The unveiling
of the monument that memorializes the late Capt. Vicente
Manglona Conception ("Ben-ki")



DISABILITY ADVOCATES

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Parents and teachers listen to CGC psychiatrist Dr. Willie Gutowski as he conducts a presentation on Normal Parenting Issue and Common Childhood Disorders at Aqua Resort Club Monday morning. The seminar is part of the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month celebration.



Department of Public Works' Roads and Facilities division staff finally remove the pile of rubble from the pavilion that collapsed a couple of years ago at the Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa Tuesday. CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office, in coordination with DPW, initiated the removal of the debris, which posed a health and environmental hazard to the community.





KITE FESTIVAL

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Korea Kitefliers Association director Hakwon Kim launches a giant kite during the kit festival held at the American Memorial Park Saturday last week.



WAITING FOR MIURA

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Japanese media patiently wait for 60-year-old murder suspect Kazuyoshi Miura during his motion hearing inside the CNMI Superior Court in Susupe Wednesday afternoon.



OFF LIMITS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A construction sign is seen on the site where a new Japanese monument will be erected beside the "Kneeling for Prayers" peace monument in Banzai Cliff. Hundreds of Japanese civilian and military forces jumped to their death on this famous historical site during WWII.



ROAD CREW

MHS Productions crew with adviser Jojo Alepuyo gather for a photo after the successful 2008 Miss Marianas Teen Pageant's talent competition at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Saturday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



BRUNCH CONCERT

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Saipan Community School Advanced Band serenade the crowd with their musical repertoire during a send-off concert at the Fresko Restaurant of Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque Sunday. Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band also performed during the show. SCS Advanced Band and SSHS Manta Ray Band will take part in the 4th Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam set from March 11 to 15, 2008.



PALMS RESORT SAIPAN DONATES TO CRIME STOPPERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI Crime Stoppers Board members receive a donation check from Palms Resort Saipan. Pictured are Jill Arenovski, James Matsumoto, and Mark Birmingham, all of NMI Crime Stoppers, receiving a check from Hiroyuki Saito, the president of Palms Resort Saipan.



SENATE SESSION

Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona gestures while talking to Continental Airlines and Commonwealth Ports Authority representatives during a meeting on the 40 charter flights project for Rota at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill Wednesday.

day.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

22 FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Oil jumps on surprise supply drop

Wednesday, rising a remarkable \$5 a barrel to a new record over \$104 after the government reported a surprise drop in crude oil stockpiles and OPEC held production levels steady.

Most analysts had expected the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration to report oil supplies rose last week for the eighth straight time. Instead, they fell by 3.1 million barrels.

In Vienna, meanwhile, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said it would hold production levels steady, at least for now.

The EIA report and OPEC announcement fed a new frenzy of investing in oil futures, which have risen to new inflation-adjusted records this week as the falling dollar drew new investors to the market.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery jumped \$5 to settle at a record \$104.52 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Shortly after the Nymex closed,

NEWYORK(AP)—Oil surged oil briefly rose to \$104.95, a new trading record. Earlier this week, oil prices broke the previous inflation-adjusted price record of \$103.76, set in 1980 during the Iran hostage crisis.

> Crude futures offer a hedge against a falling dollar, and oil futures bought and sold in dollars are more attractive to foreign investors when the dollar is falling.

> At the pump, meanwhile, gas prices rose a cent to a national average of \$3.178 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Gas prices have been following oil's recent rally, and are 69 cents higher than a year ago. Many analysts expect prices to rise to near \$4 a gallon this spring and summer as driving demand picks up.

> While investors Wednesday to focus on last week's decline in oil supplies, analysts noted that oil inventories are at historic highs. Meanwhile, demand for gasoline is falling, and several forecasters have cut their oil demand growth predictions for this year.



Men work through a dust storm Tuesday, March 4, 2008, on a new oil well being drilled in the Sakhir, Bahrain, desert.

Fed: Economy has weakened

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy has weakened since the start of this year as shoppers turned even more cautious given the severe housing slump and painful credit crunch.

Manufacturers and other businesses, meanwhile, had to cope with skyrocketing prices for energy and other raw materials. The businesses' ability to pass along higher prices to their customers was mixed, according to the Federal Reserve's new snapshot of nationwide economic conditions released Wednesday. Oil hit jumped to a record of \$104.52 a barrel.

Many economists fear that the country is teetering on the edge of a recession or is in one already.

"Economic growth has slowed since the beginning of the year," the Fed reported. Two-thirds of the Fed's 12 regions "cited softening or weakening in the pace of business activity, while the others referred to subdued, slow or modest growth," the Fed said.

The report suggested that per-

Factories, services feel slowdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. factories saw demand for their products drop sharply, while the country's service sector contracted, fresh evidence of an economy hobbled by housing and

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that new orders for manufactured goods fell 2.5 percent in January, a deterioration from December's 2 percent increase. It was the biggest decline in five months.

"Businesses scaled back spending in an uncertain economic environment," said Tim Quinlan, economic analyst at Wachovia.

Meanwhile, activity in the nation's service sector shrank in February for the second straight month.

The Institute for Supply Management's service sector index clocked in at 49.3. A reading below 50 indicates a contraction. In January, the index stood at 44.6.

The Federal Reserve, in a new snapshot of nationwide business conditions, reported that the economy has weakened since the start of the year, especially pinching retailers and manufacturers.

sisting problems in the housing market and harder-to-get credit are affecting the behavior of individuals and businesses alike making them think twice about spending and investing.

Wall Street investors took the

news in stride. The Dow Jones industrials gained 41.19 points.

The nation's retail sector is feeling the strain.

"Reports on retail spending were generally downbeat," the Fed said.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Tax scams

By DAVID UFFINGTON

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or the past few months, the Internal Revenue Service has been warning of scams, seemingly one after another. Now, with rebate bonus checks due out in a couple of months, the scammers have taken the opportunity to perpetuate even more fraud.

Here's how this new one works:

You get a call or e-mail supposedly from the IRS, and you'll be told that you're eligible for an advance rebate check -- IF you give them your Social Security number. They also ask for bank account numbers, so the check can be direct deposited into your account.

Variations include an e-mail with links you're asked to click, which takes you to a fake IRS page where you enter your personal information.

Other IRS scams have the same goal (getting you to disclose your information), but use different methods:

- E-mail that threatens an audit or criminal investigation: That's sure to get your attention, especially if the e-mail contains your real name, as some of them have.
- "Where's My Refund?" e-mail: Directs victims to a fake IRS page and asks for credit-card number and Social Security number.
- Uncashed check phone call: The victim is called, supposedly by the IRS, and told that a check the IRS sent has not been cashed. The victim is asked to give account information so it can be traced.
- Tax-law change email: These are usually directed to businesses or those who need tax-law information. The problem here is that when you click on the link, it downloads malware (a virus) onto your computer that allows the scammers to directly access your computer.
- Other scams: These include getting paid to do an IRS customer satisfaction survey or making a donation to charitable causes.

Remember: The IRS doesn't send out e-mails asking for Social Security numbers, credit-card numbers, PINs or any other information. If you get one of these e-mails, roll the mouse over the link and see what URL shows up. The IRS e-mail address is www.irs.gov. If you do want to visit the IRS Website, type in the address, rather than clicking any link.

To report an e-mail scam, go to the IRS Web site, put "suspicious e-mail" in the Search box, and follow the instructions for sending the e-mail, or call 1-800-829-1040.

Executive mentors

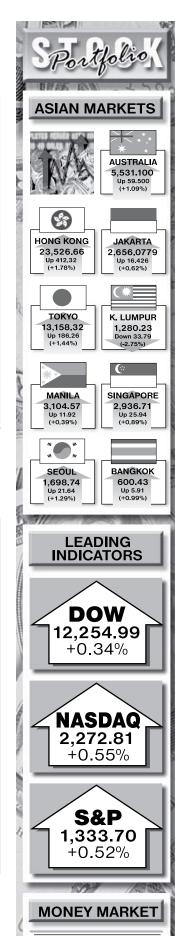
By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER

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Executives are leaning on their mentors more often, a recent study by Accountemps has found, in some cases as much as their spouses. Forty-one percent of executives polled said they would consult their mentors first about a career transition, compared with 28 percent in 2002. Some issues are particularly well suited to discussing with your mentor initially instead of your spouse: your prospects at a new company, whether another department at the same employer might be better fit for you, and the long-term impact on your career of taking a year or two off to Does your resume need an overfocus on raising your children.

Tuesday is the most productive day of the week for workers, according to 57 percent of the executives recently polled by Accountemps. The least productive day of the week? This one's not a surprise: Friday. To make your Fridays a little more like your Tuesdays, spend a few minutes first thing each morning planning how you'll spend your day. And if you make it through your must-do list, move on to a few items for the next week. That should make those Mondays a little less hectic.

haul? Or just a little touchup? Often, the flaws in people's resumes lie not in their content but in their format. To make sure vour resume is showcasing your skills and not distracting from them, look closely at the fonts you've chosen. The body text should be in a mainstream font, such as Times New Roman. (Save the fancy stuff for birthday party invitations.) Limit the total number of fonts on the page to just one or two. And resist the urge to cram more type in by shrinking the type. Anything smaller than 10 point is going to be difficult to read. Before you shrink, see if you can trim.



British Pound 0.5025 0.9856 Canadian Dollar 7.1088 Chinese Renmbi 0.6546 Hong Kong Dollar 7.7875 40.305 Indian Rupee 9079.5 Indonesian Rupiah Japanese Yen 103.876 3.1705 Malaysian Ringgit **New Zealand Dollar** 1.246 Philippine Peso 40.645 Singapore Dollar 1.3875 South Korean Won 949.2 1.0372 **Swiss Franc** Taiwan Dollar 30.763 Thailand Baht 31.54 In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Australian Dollar

1.0701

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 **23**

Nation

Clinton sees new race; Obama talks tough

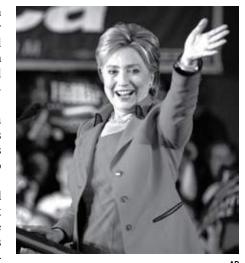
WASHINGTON (AP) -- Hillary Rodham Clinton declared Wednesday that her primary victories in Ohio, Texas and Rhode Island had reordered the Democratic presidential race in her favor. A resilient Barack Obama countered with fresh pledges of support from superdelegates and said his lead remained intact.

One day after his worst showing in a month, Obama blamed negative attacks by the former first lady for his defeats and quickly made good on a promise to sharpen his criticism of her.

But there was no disputing he had missed a chance to drive her from the race. Or that in contrast to the Republicans, who have settled on Arizona Sen. John McCain as their nominee, the Democrats face the prospect of a potentially divisive campaign lasting deep into spring.

"I'm concerned about unity. That's the major reason I've stayed out of this," said Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, who is neutral. "The longer this campaign goes on, the more difficult it will be to unify and heal."

Returns from Texas caucuses showed Obama reclaiming some of the ground in the delegate competition that he lost Tuesday night as Clinton's victories piled up. Overall, she showed a gain of 12 delegates for the contests on the ballot, according to The Associated Press count, with another dozen to



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. acknowledges supporters during a primary night rally Wednesday March 5, 2008 in Columbus, Ohio.

be awarded. In all 370 were at stake. Texas Democrats were still counting ballots from the Tuesday night caucuses.

In addition, Obama gained endorsements from superdelegates in Georgia, Vermont, Ohio, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Clinton picked up two superdelegates during the day but lost one, for a gain of one. Obama's overall delegate lead stood at ties' nominees."

1,567 to 1,462 as the rivals looked ahead to the final dozen contests on the calendar. It takes 2,025 to win the nomination.

That left weeks for public campaigning, millions more to be spent on television ads, probably one more debate and plenty of private cajoling of party leaders, the superdelegates who attend the convention but are not chosen in primaries or caucuses.

About 350 of them remain uncommitted, enough to swing the nomination in the unlikely event they decide to line up behind one candidate or the other.

"We are vigorously talking to the uncommitted automatic delegates. The Obama campaign is doing the same thing," Harold Ickes, a Clinton adviser, told reporters.

There also was talk of arranging for makeup primaries or caucuses in Michigan and Florida, two states that were stripped of delegates by the Democratic National Committee for holding elections early in defiance of party rules.

The two states' governors, Republican Charlie Crist in Florida and Democrat Jennifer Granholm in Michigan, issued a joint statement calling on party officials "to resolve this matter and to ensure that the voters ... are full participants in the formal selection of their par-

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-sailor convicted in terrorism case

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) -- A former Navy sailor was convicted Wednesday of leaking details about ship movements to suspected terrorism supporters, an act that could have endangered his own crewmates. Jurors convicted Hassan Abu-Jihaad, 32, of Phoenix of providing material support to terrorists and disclosing classified national defense information on the second day of deliberations. The American-born Muslim convert formerly known as Paul R. Hall faces up to 25 years in federal prison when he is sentenced in May. His attorney, Dan LaBelle, said an appeal was likely. "We're disappointed with the verdict, but we respect the process. It was a close case," LaBelle said.

NJ school attack plan foiled, police say

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) -- A developing plot to stage a "military-style assault" at a high school near the end of the school year has been foiled, authorities said. One person has been charged in the ongoing investigation, which began this week after officials at Belvidere High School heard allegations that a 17-year-old senior male student was developing a hit list of students and teachers, State Police spokesman Capt. Al Della Fave said Wednesday night. School officials notified Belvidere police, who soon got state police, the FBI and the region's Joint Terrorism Task Force involved.

House explodes near Pittsburgh; 1 dead

PLUM, Pa. (AP) -- A powerful explosion flattened a house in suburban Pittsburgh on Wednesday, killing a man, injuring his 4-yearold granddaughter and damaging more than a dozen neighboring homes, authorities said. Natural gas appeared to have fueled the explosion, a utility spokesman said, but it remained unclear why it happened. Pieces of burnt insulation and debris were scattered over a wide area, and smoke and flames still rose from the site hours after the 1:40 p.m. blast in Plum, about 15 miles east of Pittsburgh. Richard Leith, 64, of Trafford, died at a Pittsburgh hospital, said John J. Smith, an investigator with the Allegheny County medical examiner's office.

Auburn student found fatally shot

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) -- An Auburn University student was found fatally shot on a highway just before her car was discovered in flames on campus, several miles away. Auburn police were investigating Tuesday's death of Lauren Burk as a homicide but made no immediate arrests. "As soon as we know more we might release it, but what information we have now we're holding it close to our chest," police Capt. Tom Stofer said. University officials advised students in an e-mail around noon Wednesday that there was "no indication of additional danger to campus or student safety." But the school said the police presence on campus had been increased.

egas clinic may have sickened thousands

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Nearly 40,000 people learned this week that a trip to the doctor may have made them sick. In a type of scandal more often associated with Third World countries, a Las Vegas clinic was found to be reusing syringes and vials of medication for nearly four years. The shoddy practices may have led to an outbreak of the potentially fatal hepatitis C virus and exposed patients to HIV, too.

The discovery led to the biggest public health notification operation in U.S. history, brought demands for investigations and caused scores of lawyers to seek out patients at risk for infections.

Thousands of patients are being urged to be tested for the viruses. Six acute cases of hepatitis C have been confirmed. The surgical center and five affiliated clinics have been closed.

"I find it baffling, frankly, that in this day and age anyone would think it was safe to reuse a syringe," said Michael fast. His urine turned dark. His

Bell, associate director for infection control at the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

One of the infected patients is retired airplane mechanic Michael Washington, 67, who was the first to report his infection. On the advice of his doctor, he received a routine colon exam in July at the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada.

In September, he started to get sick. He was losing weight stomach hurt. By January, it was clear what had happened.

Washington describes his virus as a "creeping death sentence" and worries that others will hear his story and think twice before getting preventive care they need.

In letters that began arriving this week, patients who received injected anesthesia at the endoscopy center from March 2004 to mid-January were urged to get tested for hepatitis B and C,

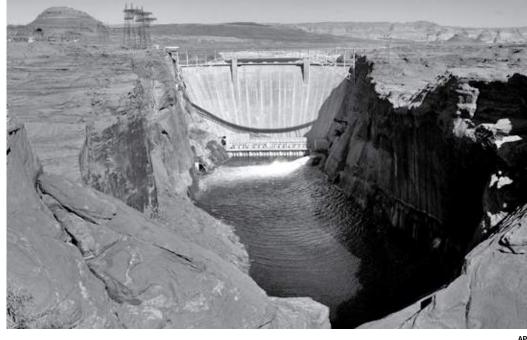
Ianmade flood unleashed in Grand Canyon

PAGE, Ariz. (AP) -- Four arcs of water unleashed from a dam coursed through the Grand Canyon on Wednesday in a flood meant to mimic the natural ones that used to nourish the ecosystem by spreading sediment.

More than 300,000 gallons of water per second were released from Lake Powell above the dam near the Arizona-Utah border. That's enough water to fill the Empire State Building in 20 minutes, said Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne.

"This gives you a glimpse of what nature has been doing for millions of years, cutting through and creating this magnificent canyon," Kempthorne said after he pulled the lever releasing the water from Glen Canyon Dam, upstream from Grand Canyon National Park.

The water gushed from two of four giant steel tubes in parallel arcs into the Colorado River. By afternoon, water poured from all four tubes, creating a churning pool beneath the sheer, sandstone canyon walls rising



Water flows from the number one and two jet tubes at the Glen Canyon Dam Wednesday, March 5, 2008, in Page, Ariz.

hundreds of feet.

The water level in the Grand Canyon rose 2 to 15 feet in some places. After the flood ends Friday, officials hope the water will leave behind sediment and

restore sandbars as it goes back to normal levels. Officials have flooded the canyon twice before, in 1996 and 2004.

Before the dam was built in 1963, the river was warm and muddy, and natural flooding built up sandbars that are essential to native plant and fish species. The river is now cool and clear, its sediment blocked by the dam.

More FBI privacy violations confirmed

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The FBI acknowledged Wednesday it improperly accessed Americans' telephone records, credit reports and Internet traffic in 2006, the fourth straight year of privacy abuses resulting from investigations aimed at tracking terrorists and spies.

The breach occurred before the FBI enacted broad new reforms in March 2007 to prevent future lapses, FBI Director Robert Mueller said. And it was caused, in part, by banks, telecommunication companies and other private businesses giving the FBI more personal client data than was requested.

Testifying at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, Mueller raised the issue of the FBI's controversial use of so-called national security letters in reference to an upcoming report on the topic by the Justice Department's inspector general.

An audit by the inspector general last year found the FBI demanded personal records without official authorization or otherwise collected more data than allowed in dozens of cases

between 2003 and 2005. Additionally, last year's audit found that the FBI had underreported to Congress how many national security letters were requested by more than 4,600.

The new audit, which examines use of national security letters issued in 2006, "will identify issues similar to those in the report issued last March," Mueller told senators. The privacy abuse "predates the reforms we now have in place," he said.

"We are committed to ensuring that we not only get this right, but maintain the vital trust of the American people," Mueller said. He offered no additional details about the upcoming audit.

National security letters, as outlined in the USA Patriot Act, are administrative subpoenas used in suspected terrorism and espionage cases. They allow the FBI to require telephone companies, Internet service providers, banks, credit bureaus and other businesses to produce highly personal records about their customers or subscribers without a judge's approval.

24 FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

4 Marines to get courts-martial in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—The U.S. military will court-martial four Marines in Japan for the alleged rape of a Japanese woman, a Marine Corps official said Thursday.

The general courts-martial will begin next month, said Master Gunnery Sgt. John Cordero of the Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni in southern Japan.

The four Marines - accused of an attack on a 19-year-old woman in October - were charged by the military in December. Japanese authorities investigated the incident but local prosecutors dropped the case in November. Officials refused to provide reasons for not pursuing prosecution.

Lans Cpl. Larry A. Dean, 20, will face the court in April and Sgt. Lanaeus J. Braswell, 25, in May, Cordero said.

Dates for two other Marines - Gunnery Sgt. Carl M. Anderson, 39, and Gunnery Sgt. Jarvis D. Raynor, 34, have not been set yet, he said, adding that

the military is not releasing their hometowns.

The decision to court-martial them followed preliminary hearings last month, according to Cordero.

The move came as anger has risen on the southern island of Okinawa over the arrest in February of another serviceman on suspicion of raping a 14-year-old girl. Japanese authorities dropped that case after the girl withdrew her complaint, but the U.S. military is

still investigating.

In the Iwakuni case, media reports say the woman met the servicemen at a restaurant in Hiroshima, and the men drove her to a nearby parking lot where they allegedly raped and robbed her. Authorities were not releasing details.

About 50,000 U.S. troops are

based in Japan under a security pact between the two countries. Many Japanese complain of crime, pollution and noise associated with the bases.

Philippine govt: Number of poor growing MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The number of poor Filipinos The number of poor Filipinos

rose between 2003 and 2006 despite strong economic growth because income increases failed to keep up with price hikes in food and basic services, a government statistical agency said Wednesday.

The National Statistical Co
Ingula 101 2000, President Gloria royo was swept to poverty threshold by income that a requires to meet rose to 6,274 per fermion of the following that the property of the

The National Statistical Coordination Board said the latest nationwide family income survey showed that a total of 4.7 million families—or 27.6 million Filipinos—were considered poor in 2006, up 16 percent from 4 million in 2003.

It said incidence of poor families rose to 26.9 percent in 2006 from 24.4 percent in 2003, but

remained below the 27.5 percent figure for 2000, the year before President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was swept to power.

The agency estimates the poverty threshold—the monthly income that a family of five requires to meet basic needs—rose to 6,274 pesos (US\$154; €101) in 2006, from 5,129 pesos (US\$126; \in 82.86) in 2003 and 4,774 pesos (US\$117, \in 76.94) in 2000.

Families whose monthly income falls below the threshold are considered poor.

Former World Bank President James Wolfensohn, addressing a forum in Manila, said he was disappointed and surprised by He said the poverty level is "something the government should spend some more time looking at" and called for more spending on education and health care to lift the poor.

He did not directly refer to allegations of corruption hounding Arroyo's government, but acknowledged that "corruption is evil" and can put a brake on economic growth.

Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos said external factors—such as high oil prices and the government's efforts to resolve fiscal problems by imposing new value-added taxes—contributed to the increase in poverty.

"Higher prices in 2004-2006 may have hindered access for both food and nonfood basic needs and hence pushed some individuals (and) families down the poverty line," Santos said.

The rise in the number of poor families came as the Philippines was experiencing its longest period of quarterly economic growth, starting in 2001 and extending into 2007.

The economy grew an average 5.4 percent in 2003-06. The 7.3 percent growth rate in 2007 was the strongest pace in 30 years.

Romulo Virola, the statistical agency's secretary general, said poverty cannot be addressed just by improving economic growth, but must include more equitable income distribution.



LONG BRIDGE

In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, Sutong Bridge is seen Tuesday night, March 4, 2008, in Nantong, east China's Jiangsu Province. The 32.4-kilometer (20-mile) long bridge linking Nantong and Suzhou is a major project of highway framework across the Yangtze River in Jiangsu Province.

Charges dropped against Bhutto widower

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

(AP)—A Pakistani court on Wednesday dropped five corruption cases against a leader of the opposition party that won last month's parliamentary elections.

Asif Ali Zardari, the party's co-chairman, is the widower of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He became known among Pakistanis by the nickname "Mr. Ten Percent" for allegedly pocketing kickbacks during the 1990s when his wife was in office.

He spent years in jail without being convicted and insists the charges were politically motivated. Now, Bhutto's assassination in December and his takeover of the party have made him a key figure in Pakistan's move back toward democracy after years of military rule.

An anti-corruption court in Rawalpindi ordered prosecutors to terminate five long-standing cases against Zardari.

"He has been acquitted," said Farooq Naek, Zardari's attorney. Pakistan's Supreme Court made Wednesday's ruling possible by lifting a stay on President Pervez Musharraf's National Reconciliation Ordinance. That order instructed courts to dismiss corruption cases against politicians and bureaucrats dating from before Musharraf seized power in a 1999 coup.

The allegations against Zardari included illegal payments relating the construction of a polo ground inside the prime minister's residence and to the purchase of thousands of Polish tractors.

GLONIA MUST GO NOW!

A student holds a candle as he displays a sign during a noisy protest along a busy street in Manila, Philippines, Wednesday March 5, 2008, to demand the resignation of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo over a raging corruption scandal.

Australians taken hostage in China freed

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—Police shot and killed a man armed with explosives who took 10 Australians hostage on a tourist bus Wednesday in northern China, a state news agency reported.

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said Thursday that the hijacker's motives were not known. "There is no indication this was particularly aimed at Australia or Australians," he told Australia's Nine Network television.

China is normally a safe destination for tourists, but more problems have arisen recently, especially robberies of foreigners.

The official Xinhua News Agency, citing local police, said a man identified as Xia Tao hijacked the bus in the popular tourist city of Xi'an. The agency said he was armed with explosives and was fatally shot by police after a standoff lasting almost three hours.

Janaline Oh, a spokeswoman at the Australian embassy, said nine hostages had been released early in the incident. She said that the 10th hostage, a 48-year-old woman from New South Wales, was not immediately released and that Chinese police had to intervene to rescue her.

Smith said some of the hos-

tages were treated for minor medical conditions.

"I understand there were some minor physical issues, very minor, but it was more shock and the horror of being involved in such a terrible situation," he said, adding that they were planning to return to Australia later Thursday.

Police in China have resorted to firing their weapons in other hostage situations.

Last June, police in Shanghai fatally shot a man who was holding a young child hostage at a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant. In June 2005, police in Xi'an shot and killed a hostage-taker.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Arroyo revokes order that had impeded corruption probe

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The Philippine president revoked a controversial order Wednesday that had blocked Cabinet members and other officials from testifying in a Senate probe into a corruption scandal battering her administration. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo made the decision after meeting with influential Roman Catholic bishops, who have condemned widespread graft in her government, presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said. The clerics demanded last week that she lift Executive Order 464, which barred officials from testifying in the Senate probe without her permission, Bunye said. In a statement, Arroyo said she was revoking the order, meaning that officials could

no longer invoke it "to excuse

nonattendance from legislative inquiries."

Typhoid outbreak hits more than 1,400

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— More than 1,400 people have displayed typhoid symptoms in less than a month in a city near the Philippine capital, prompting authorities to declare a state of calamity, health officials said Wednesday. Extra medical teams have been sent to assist doctors and conduct disease surveillance in Calamba, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said. Of 1,477 people with typhoid symptoms, 436 have been treated in the city's six hospitals and the rest in local community health centers since Feb. 16, said Dr. Dennis Labro, spokesman for the city's health office. Only 37 of those cases have been confirmed with blood tests because the typhoid test is

expensive, Labro said.

RP general, officer suspended for alleged graft

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— An anti-graft official suspended a two-star army general Wednesday for allegedly extorting money from military enlistees who wanted to forgo entry exams, officials said. Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro said he suspended Maj. Gen. Jose Barbieto, who heads a key infantry division battling communist and Muslim militants, without pay for six months pending an investigation. Staff Sgt. Roseller Echepare, who allegedly collected the money for Barbieto, also was suspended, he said. Casimiro said criminal and administrative charges would be filed before a special antigraft court against Barbieto and Echepare if investigators find strong evidence against them.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 **25**

World

Seized laptop shows Chavez's rebel ties

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)— Files in a laptop computer seized from the wreckage of a Colombian rebel camp in Ecuador offer new insights into Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's desire to undermine Colombia's U.S.allied government.

If authentic, the computer files suggest Chavez has been in league with the rebels for more than a decade.

While Chavez is not one of the correspondents, his sentiments are conveyed in numerous messages exchanged by the rebels.

Venezuela contends the texts are lies and fabrications.

If so, they are expertly done. Not only do they offer an

unprecedented glimpse into the rebels' mind-set, they also reflect deepening rebel contacts with European governments and even representatives of the United States, who have tried to negotiate the release of dozens of hostages.

They are signed electronically by the most powerful men in Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the hemisphere's oldest and most potent rebel movement.

Those signing the documents include Raul Reyes, the FARC's foreign minister and public face, who was killed when Colombian commandos raided his jungle hideout in Ecuador on Saturday.

comrades, struck a chilling blow to the group.

Others who signed messages include Manuel Marulanda, the rebels' 77-year-old supreme leader; Jorge Briceno, their much-feared field marshal, and Ivan Marquez, the insurgents' apparent go-between

the leftist Revolutionary Armed His killing, along with 23 of his Chavez. Marquez is believed to live in Venezuela.

Copies of 13 documents were sent to reporters Tuesday by Colombia's national police chief, Gen. Oscar Naranjo. He revealed their existence Sunday as his government came under a withering diplomatic attack for violating Ecuador's territory with the raid.



In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, Ecuador's President Rafael Correa, left, shakes hands with Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez as they pose for pictures during a meeting at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas, Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

Chavez calls Colombia raid a 'war crime'

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez portrayed himself as a man of peace Wednesday, even as he moved tanks and soldiers to the Colombian border in a growing crisis set off by Colombia's weekend attack on leftist rebels hiding in Ecuadorean territory.

Most of the 9,000 soldiers mobilized by Chavez have reached the border area and are "ready to defend the sacred sovereignty of the homeland" if necessary against Colombia's U.S.-supported military, the defense minister said. Ecuador said it sent 3,200 soldiers to its border with Colombia on Monday.

Chavez blamed the crisis on the U.S. "empire and its lackeys"—Colombia's conservative government - saying they pose a constant threat of war in the region. "We are peace. We are the path to peace," the leftist leader said in a televised speech. Colombia's raid, he said, was a

Chavez and his ally, Ecuador's President Rafael Correa, have been seeking international condemnation of Colombia for the commando raid on Ecuadorean soil that killed a key Colombian rebel leader and 22 other guerrillas Saturday.

They scored a victory of sorts Wednesday in

Washington, where the Organization of American States approved a watered-down resolution declaring the attack a violation of Ecuador's sovereignty. The resolution also called for OAS Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza to lead a delegation to both countries to ease tensions, but stopped short of explicitly condemning the

After meeting Wednesday night, Chavez and Correa said they welcomed the resolution but still want an explicit condemnation.

"The OAS resolution pleases us. We are pleased, but not satisfied," Correa said, standing beside Chavez. "This isn't going to cool down until the agressor is condemned.'

The United States was the only OAS nation offering Colombia unqualified support. Many other countries worried openly about the attack inside Ecuador, which along with Venezuela has been accused by Colombian officials of providing refuge to leftist Colombian guerrillas.

Correa called Colombian President Alvaro Uribe a liar who "wanted war," and warned that if the attack goes unpunished, "the region will be in danger, because the next victim could be Peru, it could be Brazil, Venezuela, Bolivia, any one of

WORLD BRIEFS

UK rights groups: Gaza in severe crisis

JERUSALEM (AP)—A human rights coalition charged Thursday that the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has reached its worst point since Israel captured the territory in 1967. In a scathing report, eight British-based rights organizations said that more than 1.1 million people, about 80 percent of Gaza's residents, are now dependent on food aid, as opposed to 63 percent in 2006. It said that overall unemployment is close to 40 percent. It also said that hospitals are suffering from power cuts of up to 12 hours a day, and the water and sewage systems were close to collapse.

UN launches team of conflict mediators

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations has launched a team of conflict mediators that can rapidly deploy to global hotspots with advice on security, constitution drafting and human rights. Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe on Wednesday likened the six-member team of mobile mediators to "a SWAT team" that can respond to requests from U.N. officials in the field, governments and regional groups. In fact, two team members—a constitution-writing expert and a security expert—skipped this week's orientation at U.N. headquarters in New York and were sent to Kenya because their skills were needed there urgently, Pascoe said.

Fight over Chemical Ali's execution

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Iraqi government is refusing to execute the Saddam Hussein henchman and cousin known as "Chemical Ali" unless the death sentences of two other Saddam-era officials also are approved. The dispute pits the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki against the threemember presidential council, which moved last week to block the two other executions in what was seen as a possible attempt to appease minority Sunni Arabs. Already on Wednesday, two former Health Ministry officials were released after being cleared on charges that they helped Shiite death squads operate by giving them access to hospitals and ambulances.

Palestinians say peace talks back on

JERUSALEM moderate Palestinian leadership agreed under heavy U.S. pressure Wednesday to resume peace talks with Israel, dropping a demand that Israel first reach a truce with Islamic Hamas militants acting as spoilers.

The announcement gave Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice a modest accomplishment for a brief troubleshooting mission. It left open the question of how both sides will eventually confront Hamas militants in charge of the 1.4 million Palestinians—nearly half the population—living in the sealed-off Gaza Strip.

"The peace process is a strategic choice and we have the intention of resuming the peace process," Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said. He did

not say when talks would restart, but U.S. and other officials predicted it would be in about a week.

Rice said Abbas had assured her he will return to talks. Doing so is a political risk for Abbas, who had broken off negotiations last weekend to protest an especially deadly Israeli military incursion into Gaza. More than 120 Palestinians were killed, along with three Israelis, over a week of heightened violence.

If Israeli-Palestinian talks resume as pledged it will essentially restore the precarious balance in place since President Bush announced last fall that the two sides would resume full negotiations for the first time in seven years. The talks are supposed to frame a deal for a Palestinian state this year.

Spanish bullfighting breeders turn to cloning

GUADALIX DE LA SIER-RA, Spain (AP)—Alcalde, a hulking black bull, is quite the stud. He sires up to 40 calves a year, most of them top-grade fighters, even though in human terms he would be almost 80 years old and is nearing the end of his life. Victoriano del Rio, a fifth-generation breeder of fighting bulls, cringes at the thought of losing an animal with such good genes.

So he is going to clone him -an unprecedented marriage of modern technology and the Spanish-speaking world's ancient, beloved pastime.

"I am extremely fond of this bull," del Rio said at his ranch in this town outside Madrid, watching 16-year-old Alcalde



The bull 'Alcalde' grazes in a field next to the town of Guadalix de la Sierra, Spain, on March 1, 2008.

graze with some of his latest offspring. "He has given us tremendous satisfaction."

While a bull in its prime can

sire as many as 80 calves a year, Alcalde's record is "exceptional" for an animal of his advanced age, del Rio said.

The Spaniard is not alone in the adventure. Rancher Jose Manuel Fernandez in Mexico plans to replicate Zalamero, another aging bull that achieved the rare feat of dodging death in the ring: In 1994, Zalamero put up such a relentless fight one autumn day that judges spared his life. Since then he has been a priceless stud.

While Alcalde never fought in the ring, he comes from a prestigious bloodline and has proved to be a producer of champions.

Fernandez is so bullish on cloning he envisions a future in which an afternoon at the arena -usually three matadors taking on two bulls each-might involve six genetically identical twins created from the same beast.

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Off the Wall

NYC ghost investigators just a call away

NEW YORK (AP) -- Something strange going on in your neighborhood? You may want to give Brooklyn Ghost Investigations a call. For \$20 an hour, the group of self-proclaimed paranormal investigators offers to go to your house to help chase away whatever goes bump in the night.

"When I was 10 years old, I started to see things - spirits and ghosts," said Sal Cicconi, 27, who formed the group with two

other Brooklynites.

The group, which claims to have honed its spooky craft by watching such TV shows as "Ghost Hunters" and "Paranormal State," has one client: a man who said he saw two apparitions in his apartment.

Cicconi and another member of the group, Sergio Ocasio, 20, went to the man's house and waited until 3 a.m. to catch a glimpse of the ghosts.

"I caught something on tape," Cicconi said. "It looked like two lights moving around, like the spirits were playing with each other."

He said they used a homemade Ouija board - often used in seances to supposedly talk to the dead (or undead) - to coax the bogeymen to leave. But it didn't work.

"Sometimes, spirits are afraid to talk or to show themselves to us," Cicconi explained.

Naked actor miffed by opera poster

LONDON (AP)—Juan Pablo di Pace didn't mind that a Royal Opera House poster showed him naked. He didn't even mind the air brushing.

The 28-year-old actor was just upset that the company didn't ask for his consent.

The opera company said Wednesday it would stop using the promotional poster for Verdi's "Rigoletto."

The nude image, which appeared last year in the poster, was taken from a 2001 staging in which Di Pace had a small role.

"We take photographs of all productions and we may use those for promotional purposes in the future," Royal Opera House spokesman Christopher Millard said. "He was in a photograph that was a striking, fantastic image which we used for publicity purposes for subsequent performances."

Millard said the company had received a letter from Di Pace's representatives expressing his unhappiness and noting that "to Juan's embarrassment his penis has been

airbrushed out."

The company said it had altered the image in various ways for the posters, including covering Di Pace's groin area with a cloth in one version.

Di Pace's publicist, however, said the dispute had "nothing to do with his anatomy."

"He was perfectly happy in the first place to get naked and take photos," said spokesman Eugene O'Hara. He said the problem was "they used his image for seven years without consent or payment."

Man flies son to tennis to beat traffic

LAKE VILLA, Ill. (AP)—When Robert Kadera's teenage son was running late for a tennis date near their northern Illinois home, Kadera came up with a novel way to avoid 45 minutes' worth of traffic —fly. There was just one problem —he had to land, without permission, at a golf course.

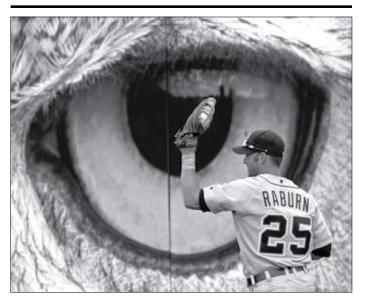
Now the Federal Aviation Administration is investigating, and local authorities are considering charges.

"We're all pretty dumbfounded," said Lincolnshire Police Chief Randy Melvin. "I don't have any idea what the guy was thinking. He was going to park his plane across the street like nobody would notice.'

Kadera, a 65-year-old electrical engineer, flew his 14-year-old son, Isaac, in a four-seat 1949 Piper Clipper from their Lake Villa home to the golf course in Lincolnshire across a highway from the tennis club. They were on their way to the tennis club when authorities stopped them.

The plane had had to circle twice before landing Saturday afternoon, and witnesses called police, fearing there had been a crash.

Kadera, a Navy veteran with about 40 years of flying experience, wasn't allowed to fly the plane home, and it had to be towed.



TIGER GETS THE EYE

Detroit Tigers outfielder Ryan Raburn catches a fly ball in front of an owl poster during a spring training baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Wednesday, March 5, 2008, in Bradenton, Fla

Oregon man takes posthumous NASCAR spin

TALENT, Ore. (AP)—Big George Helms had tickets for last weekend's NASCAR race at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, but died before he got to use them. He still made it to the track, though.

At 6-foot-5 and 400 pounds, Helms wouldn't have been able to fit into a race car. But after his death from a heart attack Dec. 28, loved ones decided to try to fulfill the 54-year-old's dream of participating in a NASCAR race, and arranged for the former logger's ashes to be driven around the track.

"His friends came up to us during the memorial service and asked us if they could take his ashes to the NASCAR race," said Helms' mother, Dixie Helms. "I said 'He'd love that."

Driver Mike Harmon taped Helms' urn to the fire extinguisher of his Nationwide Series car during practice last Friday. He told ESPN he could hear someone squealing when he went through a couple of turns.

"I swear I did," Harmon said. "I heard a noise I've never heard before. It happened just one time, through Turns 1 and 2."

Mara Brodeur, a friend who accompanied the urn to Las Vegas, called Helms' family afterward to describe how it went.

"It put tears in my eyes," said Helms' younger brother, Allen.

And Helms will be at the track's next race, in spirit anyway. His friends spread some of his ashes at the speedway before returning the rest to his mother.



PORCINE PROTEST

A truck carrying a poster protesting about cut in pork prices, drives past Downing Street in London during a demonstration to highlight the crisis facing the pig farming industry, Tuesday, March 4, 2008. British pig farmers bring their protest about low prices to the gates of Downing Street Tuesday, saying that grain prices have doubled in the past year.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

'Elvis' shows up at Kentucky court drunk

NICHOLASVILLE, Ky. (AP)

—A central Kentucky judge had a suspicious mind when an Elvis Presley impersonator showed up for court apparently drunk and sporting sunglasses and a rhinestone-studded shirt with a scarf draped around his neck. County Attorney Brian Goettl said that as a result, the judge had David Blaisdell, 64, tested for intoxication and sentenced him to three days in jail for contempt of court when it was determined that the man's blood-alcohol level was nearly twice that at which a person in Kentucky is considered legally drunk. Blaisdell, who was in court for a pretrial conference on misdemeanor charges of stalking and violating a protective order, told the judge he had had a few drinks the night before, Goettl said.

Burglars done in by doughnuts

ROSEBURG, Ore. (AP)— When two guys in cowboy garb offered the sheriff's deputies doughnuts, and then the deputies investigated a burglary involving doughnuts and the prints of cowboy boots, it didn't take Sherlock Holmes to crack the case. "The officers kind of put two and two together," Deputy District Attorney Dave Hopkins said Tuesday at the sentencing of Adam Hancock, 21, of Baker City on theft and burglary charges. Sheriff's deputies reported they found Hancock and his cousin, Vincent Whitely, 19, in Roseburg on Jan. 11, and the pair offered the

officers doughnuts, which they declined. Shortly afterward, the officers investigated a burglary at a store from which cigarettes, candy, chewing gum and the telltale doughnuts were missing. And there were boot prints. His attorney said Hancock had mental disabilities and was "easily led." Hancock told the judge he'd been drinking whiskey before the burglary and vowed to make restitution of \$895. He got two 10-day jail terms with credit for time served. Whitley pleaded guilty to the same charges last month and got the same sentence.

Group seeks volunteers to get malaria

SEATTLE (AP)—The Seattle Biomedical Research Institute will pay volunteers as much as \$4,000 to be bitten by mosquitoes infected with malaria. Scientists say no lives are in danger because the volunteers can be cured. The institute is testing year-old Pasco man is in jail which vaccines work fastest. The head of the program, Dr. Patrick Duffy, says volunteers will spend several nights under medical supervision in a hotel. All of the human trials will be reviewed for safety by the Food and Drug Administration.

Police follow footprints to nab suspect

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (AP)— When wintery weather strikes, police don't spend all their time dealing with motorists who can't adapt. On Tuesday in Springdale, an alarm sounded at 5 a.m. at a Papa John's Pizza outlet. Police saw that the door

had been forced, but a better clue was on the ground - footprints in the snow. Police followed the tracks to the back of another business, where they found Bradley T. Hyde, 29, of Lowell. Authorities said Lowell was carrying clothing from Ana's Family Boutique. Investigators say Hyde had also kicked in the back door to the Cecilia's Salon and had climbed through the ceiling to enter the adjacent clothing store. Hyde had \$166 that police believe was stolen from the pizza restaurant. Hyde was being held Wednesday in the Washington County Jail pending a Friday hearing. He was charged with felony commercial burglary, first-degree criminal mischief, misdemeanor theft of property and obstructing governmental operations, according to the jail.

Police dog sniffs out man in dog house

PASCO, Wash. (AP)—A 19after a police dog sniffed him out of a dog house. When a man called police early Tuesday to report that his car had been stolen, officers around the city began searching for it. They spotted it once and tried to stop the car, but the driver accelerated and tried to get away. Eventually, the driver ditched the car and fled on foot. Officers from five agencies staged themselves around the area, and Pasco's K-9 unit was called in to help with the search. A police dog found Francisco Montalvo hiding in a dog house. He has been booked into the Benton County jail for investigation of eluding a police vehicle and first-degree theft.

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Science & Technology

Microsoft releases new Web browser beta

AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft Corp. gave early testers their first glimpse of its next-generation Web browser Wednesday, and said Internet Explorer 8 will adhere to the same standards as competitors' programs.

Microsoft's browsers, including the current Internet Explorer 7, gained notoriety among Web developers for handling Web page code differently than Mozilla Corp.'s Firefox, Apple Inc.'s Safari, the now-defunct Netscape Navigator and others.

For the most part, major non-Microsoft browsers and outside developers who built Web pages worked with agreed-upon technical standards, while Microsoft was accused of adding proprietary code to those standards. The result: Web pages that looked good in Internet Explorer but broke on other browsers, or vice versa.

At a Web developer conference in Las Vegas Wednesday, Dean Hachamovitch, general manager for Microsoft's Internet Explorer division, made light of Microsoft's past spotty standards and pledged to do better.

early Internet Explorer 7 days, his kids would hear about broken Web sites and ask, "Daddy, did you guys break the Web?"

"And most of the time I could honestly say, 'No.' But, you know, Web developers might answer that question a little bit differently," Hachamovitch said.

He elicited a laugh, but developers have sometimes had to build Web sites from scratch a second time to devise a version that worked with Microsoft's browsers.

Microsoft said the new version of the browser, when complete, will support industrystandard versions of the code that tells browsers what Web pages should look like, including CSS 2.1, by default.

"That's a big deal," said Chris Swenson, a software industry analyst for the NPD Group.

While most Web surfers might not feel a huge impact, Swenson said it will bring "a sigh of relief" for developers, who will spend a lot less time tweaking Web pages to work with different browsers.

However, both Swenson and Microsoft note that Web standards continue to evolve, and

ON THE NET

Microsoft's Internet Explorer 8 site: http://tinyurl.com/2t3vsq

that definitive tests to determine compliance don't yet exist. Microsoft indicated Wednesday its intention to step up involvement with this process.

Microsoft's decision might also help it fend off a new antitrust investigation in Europe.

Regulators there are looking into whether the software tures in the new browser that with a quick click.

maker held other browsers back by not following open Internet standards. The probe was launched after Norwegian browser developer Opera Software ASA filed a complaint in late 2007.

Microsoft unveiled a few fea-

landlines the most crucial tech-

preferences

Web users. For example, rightclicking on a Web page will give people more "to-do" options than they'd see today. Users will be able to "Send to Facebook," "Map with Live Search" or "Define with Dictionary.com"

Study: Cell phone now most vital device

nology.

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans have become more dependent on their cell phones than conventional phones.

For the first time, Americans say they would have more trouble giving up a cell phone than a traditional phone, the Pew In-

http://pewinternet.org ternet and American Life Proj-

ON THE NET

ect said in a report Wednesday. Less than two years earlier, respondents still considered their

"The flipped," said John Horrigan, author of the new Pew report. "During that timeframe, people

have gotten new devices that have more capabilities. People have more experience using cell

> The new survey found that 58 percent of cell phone users have sent or received text messages, an increase from 41 percent in April 2006.

> phones for text messaging and

other information tools. That

has helped pushed cell phones

as 'go to' devices."

On a typical day, 31 percent of cell phone owners use text messaging and 15 percent use the devices' camera features. About 8 percent use the phone to play games and a similar percentage use it for e-mail.

According to Pew, the cell line and cell phone owners.

phone is the technological tool its users would have most difficulty giving up, followed by the Internet and television. Landline phones ranked fourth in the latest survey, just above e-mail.

In April 2006, the landline phone topped the list, followed by television, cell phones and the Internet.

Pew also found increased dependency on the BlackBerry and similar devices for wireless e-mail. Thirty-six percent of such users say they would have trouble giving that up, compared with 22 percent in 2006 and 6 percent in 2002.

The latest study of 2,054 adults was conducted Oct. 24 to Dec. 2 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2 percentage points, higher for subgroups. The random phone survey reached out to both land-

Consumer technology tips

By ROB PEGORARO

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It seems that e-mail messages and Web pages are fated to run two or three lines longer than a printed page, ensuring a steady waste of paper and ink. Some Web browsers will try to prevent this, but most mail programs don't.

Instead, the print-preview command in your browser or mail program can tell you how much paper will emerge from the printer: In Windows, go to the File menu and select "Print Preview;" on a Mac, go to the File menu, select "Print..." and click the Preview button in the print dialog box. You can then see what will appear on each page of the printout, and if the last page will only yield a few lines of irrelevant text (like those long disclaimers at the end of e-mails from lawyers), you can tell the computer to skip that page in the print dialog.

If you still run Microsoft's Outlook Express, it's time to dump it. This clunker of a mail program—included with versions of Windows prior to Vista—lacks the search and security features of every other modern mail program and hasn't seen a meaningful upgrade in years. Microsoft's free Windows Live (get.live.com/wlmail/ Mail

overview) will pick up all of your Outlook Express messages, settings and addresses automatically, screens out spam and phishing messages and can subscribe to the "RSS" feeds many sites offer. (Tip: Uncheck its installer's three "customize" options, which have nothing to do with e-mail.) But its slick interface may be a bit of a shock, and it only runs on XP and Vista. Another option, the free, opensource Mozilla Thunderbird (mozilla.com), runs on Win 98 and anything newer and offers a wider array of options to sort and search through your messages.

If you've got a slow connection, a site designed for broadband users can feel intolerably slow. You can sit and stew while the graphics and animations at these sites make their way down to your computer-or you can try using a mobile-phone edition of the site, if it's available, to get the same info without all the associated flash. For example, instead of waiting for Major League Baseball's multimediasaturated mlb.com home page to arrive, you can check scores, schedules and statistics much faster at m.mlb.com. To find a site's mobile edition, try searching for "mobile (name of site)": often, however, you only need to replace the "www." at the start of its address with "m."

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Q. Whatever other people might say about Windows Vista, I love its parental controls. But my son has found a proxyserver site that lets him bypass any site blocks I've placed. I can block this one site, but there must be others like it. Is there an answer to this dilemma?

A. There really isn't. You could completely lock down the machine—allowing browsing only to a designated set of sites—but Vista's "Allow List" is blank, so you'd have to fill it out yourself. (Vista can import a "WebAllowBlockList" compiled by somebody else, but good luck finding one to download; this feature seems to have been ignored in practice.)

You can deny access to sites on Vista's "Block List." But by typing a blocked site's address into a proxy-server site, a user can drive around Vista's roadblocks. These sites themselves can be restricted, but there are quite a few around; that whole exercise will degenerate into a game of Whack-a-Mole.

Finally, a child can always go online on somebody else's computer.

This may be an upsetting realization. If you want to feel better about it, consider what this suggests about the odds of the Chinese government keeping a billion or so Internet users away from parts of the Internet.

Q. I just bought a discounted Sony Vaio C series laptop, but it doesn't include a Blu-ray drive. Should I return it for a more expensive Blu-ray unit or hang on to this one, which has everything else that I need?

A. Keep the laptop. Blu-ray just won the format war against the competing HD DVD standard, but it's a long way from displacing DVDs as the preferred way to watch movies.

More importantly, on all but the largest laptops, you'd have a difficult time seeing much difference between high-definition and standard-definition video.

This is the Numark TTX USB Turntable seen Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008,

By RON HARRIS

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Most people gave up on their vinyl music collection two decades ago, when compact discs all but nudged LPs off store shelves

for good. If you held onto any favorites, DJ

equipment maker Numark Inc. is looking to breathe new life into them with a USBequipped turntable. It can pipe the tunes of yesteryear into your computer, where you can store them in digital form - or load them onto a media player and take them on the road.

The Numark TTX USB

Stylish unit turns vinyl digital (\$399) is a sturdy, DJ quality turntable with well-fashioned components and nice styling. Nothing about this unit threatens to date it visually, and that's important if you're considering showcasing a turntable alongside some other home theater

> USB-equipped turntable. ION Audio also makes USB turntables, and theirs start at \$99. But the heavy-duty build of the Numark unit was more impressive to me.

> And it's always possible to skip such devices altogether and pipe the sound from your old, non-USB turntable into a computer.

devices. Numark was not the first company market with a

ON THE NET http://www.numark.com

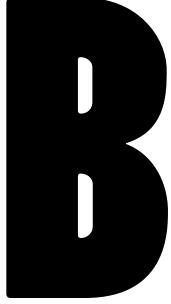
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Life & Style

If it's all about you, you're in trouble

By DAN ZAK

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road pronouncement of the week: We are entitled brats.

For immediate proof, turn on the television and locate a reality show. "Real Housewives of Orange County" and their real children halfway through a marathon of placating and whining. "The Hills"

and "Newport Harbor" are stocked with people who expect a disproportionate amount of respect, lest they erupt in a raging meltdown.

We watch these shows in horror, with a judgmental eye, but how different are we? In real life, we want what we want and we want it now. No delay. No aggravation. No hassle, pain-free, our way, right away. We're a highly technical society in a land of plenty. We place a premium on efficiency and convenience. Tiny annoyances and inconveniences foul our moods and affect our behaviors. Why? And how can we get past these trivialities?

Consider this paradox: Things are becoming more instantaneous in an era when delays are rampant and increasing. There are faster flights and cars but more people in airplanes and on the roads

What has happened, even though companies are improving service, is that "customer expectations are continuing to rise," says Roger Nunley, managing director of the Customer Care Institute in Atlanta. This can be attributed to "consumers doing business online, where they get instant gratification and quick turnarounds. That's quickly becoming the standard expectation."

Change in expectations is a generational thing, experts say. People who grew up during the Depression were happy to have a job and stuck with one for a lifetime. Many members of generations X and Y were raised in a different light. They expect a buffet of opportunities and are peeved when they don't materialize.

Narcissism and entitlement among college students have increased steadily since 1979, according to a study to be published this year in the Journal of Personality. Between that year and 2006, 16,000 college students were asked to pick between such paired statements as "I expect a great deal from other people" and "I like to do things for other people," and "I will never be satisfied until I get all that I deserve" and "I will take my satisfactions as they come."

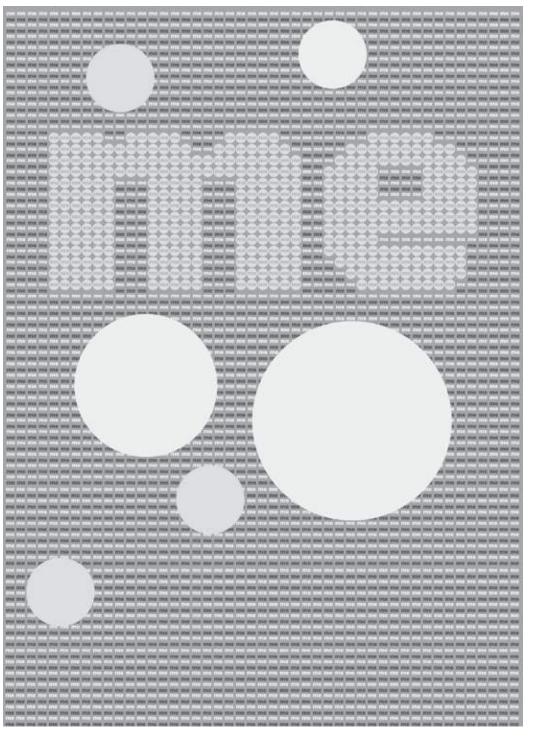
The data are clear: The ascent of narcissism and entitlement is dramatic.

"What we really have is a culture that has increasingly emphasized feeling good about yourself and favoring the individual over the group," says the study's co-author, Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University. "And that has happened across the board, culturally, and it's showing no signs of slowing down."

To complement her research, Twenge offers evidence from the field: "I have a 14-month-old daughter, and the clothing available to her has 'little princess,' or 'I'm the boss,' or 'spoiled rotten' written on it. This is what we're dressing

In real life, we want what we want and we want it now. No delay.

No aggravation. No hassle, pain-free, our way, right away.



our babies in."

Schools have programs designed to boost self-esteem. We're inundated with the notions of "feeling special," "believing in yourself" and "be anything you want to be." Twenge ponders all these messages in her book "Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—and More Miserable Than Ever Before" (Free Press, 2006). Twenge also coins the term "iGeneration" ("i" as in both iPod and "me, me, me"), which includes those born from roughly 1981 to 1999.

This goes beyond social conditioning and technology, though. Entitlement is part of human narcissism. When something goes wrong for others, it's their fault. When something goes wrong for us, we blame external forces.

This projection often antagonizes a situation. Feeling entitled to something you aren't getting

leads to frustration, which leads to bratty behavior and confrontation. Nearly 80 percent of Americans say rudeness—particularly behind the wheel, on cellphones and in customer service—should be regarded as a serious national problem, according to a study by the opinion research firm Public Agenda.

An airport is a petri dish for rude behavior. "You have people screaming at customer representatives at airports because it's snowing out—as if they're entitled to have a sunny day," says professor Keith Campbell, who specializes in the study of narcissism at the University of Georgia. "Yeah, there are certain times where we're entitled and other times we're not. The problem is when we have that meter wrong."

All this is tied to the feeling of not being satisfied, of thinking that some force is blocking the way to a goal we think we deserve.

"The question is, 'What the heck is enough?' says writer and psychologist Carl Pickhardt, who specializes in parenting and child development in his private practice in Austin. "I see that all the time. A couple comes in for marriage counseling, and they ask me, 'Are we happy enough?' Somebody's at a job they like, but are they successful enough? People have to make that choice. We are a dissatisfaction market society. Advertising constantly creates the notion that whatever we have is not enough. We can declare independence of that."

It's about realigning our expectations and then squelching the nagging voice in our minds that propels our discontent. Pennsylvania psychologist Pauline Wallin calls this voice our "inner brat," an evil twin to our "inner child." After years of counseling clients who routinely made mountains out of molehills, Wallin dived into the concept, named it and produced the book "Taming Your Inner Brat: A Guide for Transforming Self-Defeating Behavior" (Wildcat Canyon Press, 2004).

"We have enough big things to be upset about," she says. "Frustration leads to aggression. If you don't let yourself get frustrated in the first place, then you don't get so angry and you don't blow things out of proportion."

Stress also fuels bratty behavior. Psychologist Ronald Nathan, of Albany, N.Y., recommends practicing relaxation techniques when waiting for such things as public transportation, the doctor or tech support. This turns a disadvantage (the frustration of waiting) into an advantage (making good use of that time to relax).

"Whether you are tempted to interrupt someone or are trying to get around a slow car—when you're under stress you tend to react rather than respond," says Nathan, who specializes in stress. "Look at what you're telling yourself about your world and how you are interpreting it. We sometimes interpret the world as a set of 'shoulds,' 'oughts,' 'have to's,' 'musts,' 'deserves.' Those are exaggerations. It's a very competitive world we live in, so we easily get frustrated."

Nathan has trademarked a technique for stress relief that has a time-release formula (www.relax-fastforfree.com). It involves setting some kind of unobtrusive alarm—the vibrate function on your cellphone, for example—to remind you to take several minutes to do some deep belly breathing and loosen your muscles and limbs, reframing of the mind that can become automatic.

Another good habit is being grateful. "On the drive home from work, it's a matter of turning the radio off and thinking about how wonderful your job is or, if your job sucks, how wonderful your family is or, if your family's in shambles, how good your health is," says psychology professor Mike McCullough, who studies gratitude at the University of Miami.

He helped conduct one experiment wherein one group kept a journal of their daily hassles for a period of time while another recorded the times they were grateful. The outcome may be obvious but no less instructive: People who concentrated on hassles were generally miserable; the others were pleased and satisfied.

It comes down to perspective and expectations. Do you want empty highways, no lines, a promotion and limousine conveyance to your birthday party? Fine. But don't EXPECT them. Focus on your reliable car, your good health, your job stability or the fact that you're in a position to celebrate a birthday at all.

"When you're feeling this sense of deprivation or entitlement, try to take the longer view," Mc-Cullough urges. "Ask yourself, 'Is it really true—empirically true—that you are entitled to something?' In most cases, people say no."

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 **29**

In Loving Memory of

Lourdes Cabrera Deleon Guerrero

SEPTEMBER 27, 1949 - MARCH 1, 2008

was called to join her creator on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at the age of 58

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her: Husband – Edward Masga Deleon Guerrero

Her Children and Grandchildren:

Yvonne DLG. and Dennis M. Reyes Jake, Alexis, Kyana (Joseph, JDen)

Edward C. and Maureen B. Deleon Guerrero Jerry, Joshua, Keesha, Keith

† **Joseph** C. Deleon Guerrero Jashlie, Jacob, Ashlynn, Donovan Jay, Ava Lourette

Kulani DLG. and Ben Sablan Peter, Edward, Brandon, Nathan, Britanny, Clayton

Reared Son and Daughter:

Peter Ryan Deleon Guerrero Sylvia Alexis Deleon Guerrero

She will also be missed by her brothers, sisters and in-laws:

Ana C. Celis and Children
Larry & Lillian C. Leon Guerrero and Family
Charlie & Dolores C. Leon Guerrero and Family
Nicolasa M. Cabrera and Children
Diego & Donna Cabrera and Family
Margarita S. Cabrera and Family
Aida D. Cabrera and Children
Ramon & Rosalina T. Cabrera and Family

Jose Pangelinan and Children
Jose & Isabel C. Delon Guerrero and Family
Herman & Asunta C. Deleon Guerrero and Family
John & Lisa Deleon Guerrero and Family
Thomas & Oliva C. Deleon Guerrero and Family
Francisco & Joanne T. Deleon Guerrero and family
Vicente & Nadine S. Deleon Guerrero and Family
David Deleon Guerrero and Frances Rebuenog and Family
Santiago & Tara Deleon Guerrero and Family
Douglas & Regina DLG. Cushnie and Family
Douglas & Roquina DLG. Salas and Family
Magdalena Deleon Guerrero & Edward Aguon and Family
John & MaryAnn DLG. Sablan and Family
Lucia M. Deleon Guerrero and Children
Ignacio M. & Vivian S. Deleon Guerrero and Family

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: † Antonio Sablan Cabrera † Sylvia Manibusan Cabrera

Parents-In-Law: † Ignacio Sablan Deleon Guerrero

† Teofilia Masga Deleon Guerrero

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

† Antonia Manibusan Cabrera

† Vicente Manibusan Cabrera

† Jose Manibusan Cabrera

† Daniel Sablan Celis

† Maria Sakisat Pangelinan

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2008.

Her remains will be taken from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to OL Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be at 8:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Services will take place at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman.



† Joseph Cabrera Deleon Guerrero MAY 30, 1975 - MARCH 31, 2007 A joined Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m. for the reposed souls of † Lourdes Cabrera Deleon Guerrero and her son † Joseph Cabrera Deleon Guerrero in commemoration of his

First Death Anniversary.

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase Please Join Us In Prayers.

Edward M. Deleon Guerrero Children and Family **30** FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 LIFE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

1888 photo depicts Helen Keller, teacher

By MELISSA TRUJILLO

BOSTON (AP)—Researchers have uncovered a rare photograph of a young Helen Keller with her teacher Anne Sullivan, nearly 120 years after it was taken on Cape Cod. The photograph, shot in July 1888 in Brewster, shows an 8-year-old Helen sitting outside in a light-colored dress, holding Sullivan's hand and cradling one of her beloved dolls.

Experts on Keller's life believe it could be the earliest photo of the two women together and the only one showing the blind and deaf child with a doll - the first word Sullivan spelled for Keller after they met in 1887 - according to the New England Historic Genealogical Society, which now has the photo.

"It's really one of the best images I've seen in a long, long time," said Helen Selsdon, an archivist at the American Foundation for the Blind, where Keller worked for more than 40 years. "This is just a huge visual addition to the history of Helen and Annie."

For more than a century, the photograph has belonged to the family of Thaxter Spencer, an 87-year-old man in Waltham.

Spencer's mother, Hope Thaxter Parks, often stayed at the Elijah Cobb House on Cape Cod during the summer as a child. In July 1888, she played with Keller, whose family had traveled from Tuscumbia, Ala., to vacation in Massachusetts.

Spencer, who doesn't know which



This 1888 photo released by the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston shows Helen Keller when she was eight years old, left, holding hands with her teacher, Anne Sullivan, during a summer vacation to Brewster, Mass., on Cape Cod.

of his relatives took the picture, told the society that his mother, four years younger than Helen, remembered Helen exploring her face with her hands.

In June, Spencer donated a large collection of photo albums, letters, diaries and other heirlooms to the genealogical society, which preserves artifacts from New England families for future research.

"I never thought much about it," Spencer said in a statement released by the society. "It just seemed like some-

ON THE NET

New England Historic Genea-

logical Society: http://www.

Helen Keller: http://www.afb.

org/Section.asp?SectionID1

newenglandancestors.org

thing no one would find very interesting." Spencer has recently been hospitalized and could not be reached for comment.

It wasn't until recently that staff

at the society realized the photograph's significance. Advocates for the blind say they had never heard of it, though after they announced its discovery Wednesday they learned it had published in 1987 in a magazine on Cape Cod and a half-century earlier in The Boston Globe. It is unclear whether there was more than one copy of the photograph.

D. Brenton Simons, the society's president and CEO, said the photograph offers a glimpse of what was a very important time in Keller's life.

Sullivan was hired in 1887 to teach Keller, who had been left blind and deaf after an illness at the age of 1 1/2. With her new teacher, Keller learned language from words spelled

manually into her hand. Not quite 7, the girl went from an angry, frustrated child without a way to communicate to an eager scholar.

While "doll" was the first word spelled into her hand, Helen finally comprehended the meaning of language a few weeks later with the word "water," as famously depicted in the film "The Miracle Worker." Sullivan stayed at her side until her death in 1936, and Keller became a world-famous author and humanitarian. She died in 1968.

> Jan Seymour-Ford, a research librarian at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, which both Sullivan and Keller attended, said she

moved to see how deeply connected the women were, even in 1888.

"The way Anne is gazing so intently at Helen, I think it's a beautiful portrait of the devotion that lasted between these two women all of Anne's life," Seymour-Ford said.

Selsdon said the photograph is valuable because it shows many elements of Keller's childhood: that devotion, Sullivan's push to teach Helen outdoors and Helen's attachment to her baby dolls, one of which was given to her upon Sullivan's arrival as her teacher.

"It's a beautiful composition," she said. "It's not even the individual elements. It's the fact that it has all of the

Thank You for Supporting the Rota San Isidro Fiesta

The Saipan subcommittee of the Rota San Isi dro Fiesta recently held a successful benefit concert at the Garapan Central Park.

We appreciate the fact that our neighboring brothers, sisters and friends on Saipan came to the aid of the Rota Community. We are thankful for the tremendous support and display of volunteerism offered. We the subcommittee feel that, "no good deed should go unmentioned." With this being said, we would like to thank the following donors:

ina'tus Dancers Mr. Ace Elameto Mr Parker Mr Dem Mæglena Mr Kevin Atalog Senator Paul Manglona

2008 Rota Sm Indro Fresta Committee

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Mr. Patrick Pangelman Pacific Tele Communications Mr. Journes Tammao Mr. Jerry Ayuyu and Ms. Rel Iglecias Mr. Stove Sablan Mr. & Mrs. David and Rose Ayuyu Mr. Erov Oso

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Mr. & Mrs. Zardo and Mary Fach. Villameyra and children

Mr. S. Mr. Ton and Ida Expléo and Chaldren Mr. Eennis Tainnean 2007 Rota San Inideo Frema Queen, Miss Macmi M. Sataki Mr. S. Mr. Joe and Mel Leulumar Bandage Boys (Mr. John Tatano & Mr. Ray Kaipa) Division of Parks & Recreation, DLNR.

For those of you in attendance and purchase tickets, we extend our sincere gratitude. Please continue your unselfish deeds and may God bless you all. . . Biba San Isidro!



Swayze projects continue despite cancer

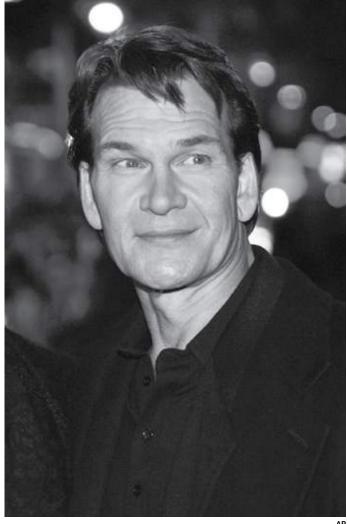
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Patrick Swayze's doctor is "optimistic" about his prognosis for battling pancreatic cancer, and the "Dirty Dancing" actor's upcoming cable pilot is still in contention to become a series.

With the writer's strike over, the A&E pilot "The Beast," starring Swayze as an unorthodox FBI agent, is being considered to be turned into a series by the cable network. If that happens, the "Dirty Dancing" and "Ghost" star hopes to continue to be part of the show, his representative Annett Wolf told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Swavze has been undergoing treatment for the disease, Wolf confirmed in a statement. The National Cancer Institute estimates there will be 37,680 new cases of pancreatic cancer in 2008 with 34,290 deaths in the U.S.; only five percent of patients live more than five years after being diagnosed.

"Patrick has a very limited amount of disease and he appears to be responding well to treatment thus far," Swayze's physician Dr. George Fisher said in a statement released by Wolf. "All of the reports stating the timeframe of his prognosis and his physical side effects are absolutely untrue. We are considerably more optimistic."

Wolf said Swayze, 55, shot "The Beast" pilot last Decem-



Actor Patrick Swayze poses for the photographers, prior to the premiere of his new film "Keeping Mum" at a Leicester Square cinema in central London, in this Nov. 28, 2005, file photo.

ber and isn't currently working on any new projects. A&E issued a statement Wednesday stating "The Beast" was still in speedy recovery.

contention to become one of the network's new original drama series and wished Swayze a

Is America ready for a gay 'Idol'?

By DERRIK J. LANG AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No finalist has ever been portrayed as openly gay during the past six seasons of "American Idol." With more details about contestants' personal lives being exposed - both on the show and unofficially online - that could change, and soon.

Or will it be "Idol" business as usual?

"It feels like we're closer now than ever to having an openly gay contestant on the show," says Jim Verraros, who came out after his run as a finalist on the first season of "Idol."

"I'm not here to name any names, but I feel like there are some definite possibilities for this to happen this year," he said. "Do I think it'll happen? I don't know. I hope it does."

On Thursday, the current 16 semifinalists will be narrowed down to 12 finalists, who will perform live each week until the seventh winner of "American Idol" is selected by the voting public. At its core, "Idol" is a singing competition, but finalists' popularity has always seemed to play a big role in who moves forward.

When reached for comment about this story, Fox and "Idol" producers issued the following

statement to The Associated Press: "We do not comment on the personal lives of the show participants." None of the current contestants have been made available for comment.

Over the years, however, "Idol" has devoted plenty of screentime to participants' personal lives, ranging from asking intimate questions of the contestants (this week it's "What was your most embarrassing moment?") to aiming the camera at their sobbing significant others in the audience, to airing fully edited segments about their backgrounds.

"The show hasn't seemed very conducive or gay friendly to contestants coming out," says Michael Jensen, editor of AfterElton.com, a Web site about gay and bisexual men in entertainment and the media. "Simon and Randy have not hesitated to mock effeminate contestants and crack the occasional gay joke. It has not communicated to contestants that it would be a good place to come out."

Every season, blogs and message board users endlessly speculate about the sexuality of contestants. Online clues hinting at their sexual orientation often emerge, but Fox and "Idol" producers have never addressed such rumors or depicted openly gay finalists as such on the show or on AmericanIdol.com.

Such speculation isn't new.

Will Young, the first champion of "American Idol's" British predecessor "Pop Idol," was rumored to be gay - then publicly

came out following his win. In Aiken continues to be a constant 2005, a gay personal ad featuring U.S. season-four finalist Anwar Robinson was discovered on BlackPlanet.com. And second-season runner-up Clay



In this undated image released by FOX, "American Idol" contestant Danny Noriega, 18, of Azuza, Calif., is shown.

source of "is he or isn't he?" gossip - though he's always maintained that he isn't.

"Gay people, like everybody, want to see themselves reflected on television," says Jensen. "I think that when a show hasn't reflected that, and goes on and on not reflecting that, it sort of raises the ante, and each season people begin speculating even more intensely about who may be gay."

This week, a video of flamboyant current semifinalist Danny Noriega lashing out against Santa Claus appeared on MySpace and was posted on several blogs. Another video of Noriega singing Aretha Franklin's "Chain of Fools" and rapping about being gay - all while wearing a do-rag - was also posted on YouTube.

'Yeah, I'm gay," raps Noriega in the video. "But you eat hay for dinner, 'cause you look like a horse"

Last week, "Idol"-bashing VoteForTheWorst.com posted photos of scantily clad semifinalist David Hernandez working at gay nightclub Burn, as well as rumors that he was a stripper at Dick's Cabaret in Phoenix. Club manager Gordy Bryan told the AP on Monday that Hernandez did indeed dance fully nude and perform lap dances for the club's

"mostly male" clientele.

Club manager Bryan says he did not know anything about Hernandez's personal life while he was stripping at Dick's Cabaret. Hernandez's MySpace profile lists his sexual orientation as straight.

First-season finalist Verraros, who says he was out to fellow contestants and "Idol" staff but not on the show, was publicly outed when an online journal he kept in college, which included comments about dating guys, was discovered. "Idol" producers later asked Verraros to take down the LiveJournal.

"The message boards were so homophobic. The gaybashing was awful," says Verraros. "It was horrible. They said a faggot would never win 'American Idol.' It was pretty intense. I think it's something you have to expect in this industry, whether it's 'American Idol' or a sitcom or Broadway. It's going to happen the more exposed you are."

Verraros decided not to come out until after the show and the subsequent tour, doing so in the pages of gay magazine The Advocate. Since then, Verraros released his first album, starred in the gay-themed indie film "Eating Out 2: Sloppy Seconds" and his currently working on his second album.

In humble gratitude, we the family of the late

JOAQUIN JONES CASTRO

fondly known as "Jack, JJ or Kindu" wish to express our heartfelt and sincere appreciation to

- Those individuals who took the time to call us from a distance to share their love and concern of Jack's medical condition and offered mass and prayers. Your call of concern and compassion were greatly appreciated.
- The paramedics and firemen of Fayetteville County, the doctors and nurses of the intensive care unit of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Fayetteville, North Carolina. Thank you for your quick response, the medical care and attention you gave to our Beloved Joaquin. You did everything you could do to save our loved one.
- Fr. Tony and Fr. Mike of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina. Your words of wisdom gave us strength, consolation and did reaffirm our faith. Thank you for administering the last rites and apostolic blessing to our beloved Joaquin. Thank you for your prayers and for being there during our most disheartening moments.
- The Marianas Chamorro Association of North Carolina, friends and their family and also our friends from Colorado. You were there with a helping hand just when we needed it most, ready to pitch in and do whatever you could to console us. You are all truly wonderful people. You are a gift to us and we can't thank you enough for all you've done. Sen Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
- Our family and friends who generously grace us with dinner and refreshment at the nightly rosaries. In this economic hard times, it's wonderful to know that some people still have the art of taking time for others, impart comfort and care and of giving from the heart. Big or small, your gift was a blessing and we sincerely thank YOU.
- The Saipan Mayor's Office, the 10th Saipan Municipal Council members and staff, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Division of Customs, the Division of Immigration, the Department of Public Works, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lt. Governor Tim Villagomez and Members of the 16th Legislature. Please know that we appreciate your support, assistance and services extended to us.
- The Commissioner of the Department of Corrections and JJ's former colleague, Mr. Lino S. Tenorio and staff, the Department of Public Safety management and staff, JJ's former and present colleagues. The recognition, respect and honor extended to our beloved "Jack or JJ" as fondly called by many of you will always be treasured in our hearts. We are humbled by your support and outstanding services. Sen Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
- Mr. Frank Cabrera of Cabrera Funeral Home and Mr. Todd Sullivan of Highland Sullivan's Funeral Home. Your assistance, help, patience, understanding and awesome services are commendable. Thank you so much.

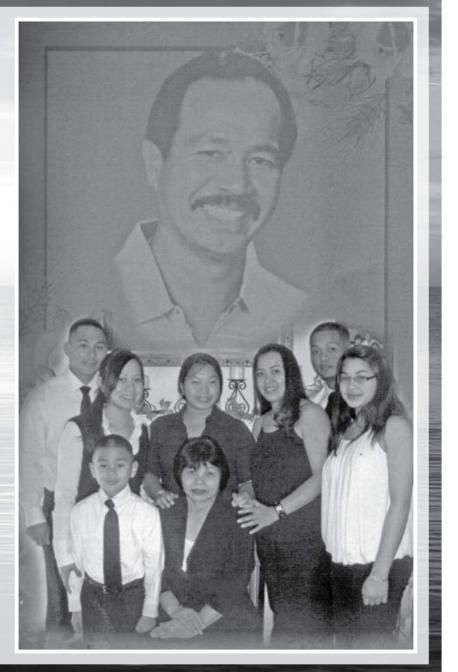
Last but not least, to all of you dear relatives and friends, both from near and afar who Game to join us in prayers at the nightly rosaries, at the Mass of Christian Burial and at the final rosary and Eucharistic Celebration at St. Jude Church for our beloved Kindu. Your presence, prayers, kind words and deeds have indeed touched our hearts. You gave us something very special - "your time"

No emotional trauma distresses us more than the loss of our dear one, however, knowing where our loved one goes after

death is important to our healing. Our faith comforts us, as does the knowledge of an eventual reunion on the other side. Our loved one is at peace and in the arms of our loving God. On our part, as the day and time goes by, my beloved husband, our father and grandfather's love and memories will continue to live on in our hearts and just as you have blessed us with your kindness, may our Lord, likewise, bless you and your loved ones.

Once again, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you so much

Elisa Maratita Castro, Children & Family



Spears' father retains control of estate



CAPITOL SCREENING

House Speaker, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., from right to left, Tom Hanks, executive producer of "John Adams", House Minority Leader Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Paul Giamatti, the actor portraying John Adams, chat before the screening of the HBO film "John Adams" at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, March 5, 2008.



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Rambo

4:10 7:15 10:00 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00 1:20 4:10 7:15 1:20 Mon thru Thurs

Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz Action, Adventure • Rated R

Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13

Synopsis

Synopsis

John Rambo has retreated to northern Thailand, where he"s running a ongboat on the Salween River. On the nearby Thai-Burma (Myanmar border, the world"s longest-running civil war, the Burmese-Karen conflict, rages into its 60th year. But Rambo, who lives a solitary, simple life in the mountains and jungles fishing and catching poisonou snakes to sell, has long given up fighting, even as medics, mercenaries rebels and peace workers pass by on their way to the war-torn region.



Semi-Pro

4:25 7:30 9:35 4:25 7:30 9:35 1:25 4:25 7:30 Mon thru Thurs

Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson



Vantage Point 4:15 7:00 9:45 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45 Friday 1:10 4:15 7:00 Mon thru Thurs

Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker

Untraceable



Bahay Kubo

Friday Sunday 1:15 4:20 Mon thru Thurs Maricel Soriano, Eric Quizon

The Spiderwick Chronicles

4:00 7:20 9:30 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30 1:00 4:00 7:20 Friday Sunday Seth Rogen, Mary-Loise Parker Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13



Friday Saturday 7:05 9:55 7:05 Sunday Mon thru Thurs Diane Lane, Billy Burke

7:05 9:55

Drama, Thriller, Crime . Rated I

Jumper Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40 1:05 4:05 7:25 Saturday Sunday Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25 Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson Adventure, Sci Fi • Rated PG13

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LOS ANGELES (AP) -- A court commissioner ruled Wednesday that Britney Spears' father will retain control of the troubled pop star's finances and estate for another five months.

Superior Court Commissioner Reva Goetz extended Jamie Spears' control until July 31, said court spokesman Alan Parachini. Parachini wasn't immediately able to provide more information.

James Spears was named co-conservator of the pop star's estate after she was hospitalized twice in January. His temporary authority to handle her affairs was to expire March 10.

In the year leading up to the hospitalizations, Spears had been caught on camera by paparazzi engaging in increasingly bizarre behavior. She shaved her head, beat a vehicle with an umbrella, wore skirts sans underwear and left her car on a busy thoroughfare after getting a flat tire.

The strange outbursts and hospitalizations contributed to the 26-year-old losing custody of her young sons, Jayden James, 1, and Sean Preston, 2. Ex-husband Kevin Federline continues to have full custody.

Spears was allowed brief visits with the boys beginning in late February after not seeing them for nearly two months. That happened after Spears and Federline "agreed to a modification of the court's order" that had stripped Spears of her visitation rights, according to Federline attorney Mark Vincent Kaplan.

Spears' parents came to Los Angeles around the time of her second hospitalization. They pushed to restore visitation rights with the boys.

Global movie ticket sales hit record

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Moviegoers around the world pushed global box office revenues to a record \$26.7 billion in 2007, but rising ticket prices and a weakening dollar accounted for much of the increase, the Motion Picture Association of America said Wednesday.

The group's annual report said box office revenue outside North America climbed 4.9 percent to \$17.1 billion, representing nearly two-thirds of all ticket sales.

Revenues in the United States and Canada increased 5.4 percent to a record \$9.6 billion, with admissions unchanged at 1.4 billion tickets sold, and ticket prices 5 percent higher at an average \$6.88.

Dan Glickman, chief executive of the association, said the report was good news but acknowledged major studios got a big bump from a weak dollar.

"There's no question that a significant portion of that increase is due to the currency situation," he told reporters during a conference call.

The organization did not break out the effect of the currency. But the U.S. dollar fell 6.1 percent against the Canadian dollar and 5.9 percent against the euro from the first week of July 2006 to the first week of July 2007. That boosts U.S. dollar revenues even if ticket prices abroad remain the same.

Total global ticket sales reached \$25.5 billion in 2006.

The association, which includes the six major Hollywood studios and their affiliates, also pointed out the increasing impact of high-tech goods on theater attendance.

North American moviegoers averaged 7.9 theater trips in 2007. Those who owned or subscribed to five or more high-tech services or devices involving videos saw 11.4 movies during the year.

"We see consumers very open to the idea of the digital home and their beloved movie house, both having a bright, bright future," Glickman said.

Some 73 percent of moviegoers researched their picks online before going to the theater, and more than half of those viewed ads or trailers online, the association said.

The report also noted the cost of moviemaking rose. Major studios such as Paramount, Sony and Walt Disney spent an average of \$106.6 million producing and marketing each film, up 6.3 percent from a year earlier. Their subsidiaries, such as Miramax and New Line, saw costs surge 54 percent to an average of \$74.8 million per film.

BEST SELLERS

Fiction

The Appeal, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$27.95) A billionaire enlists political help to kill a \$41-million jury award over toxic waste dumping.

L.A. Outlaws, by T. Jefferson Parker (Dutton: \$25.95) A teacher doubles as a thief on L.A.'s mean streets.

Stranger in Paradise, by Robert B. Parker (Putnam: \$25.95) An old foe of a small-town police chief now seeks his help in a murder-for-hire scheme.

7th Heaven, by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro (Little, Brown: \$27.99) Inspector Lindsay Boxer is on the trail of a murderous arsonist and a missing teen.

People of the Book, by Geraldine Brooks (Viking: \$25.95) A rare-books expert traces the history of a priceless Jewish tome to 15th century Spain.

The Ghost War, by Alex Berenson (Putnam: \$24.95) CIA agent John Wells searches for the mole who leaked the identity of a North Korean

A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead: \$25.95) Two Afghan women struggle to survive jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny.

Beautiful Children, by Charles Bock (Random House: \$25) A comic book illustrator and his stripper wife search Las Vegas for their 12-year-old son.

Duma Key, by Stephen King (Scribner: \$28) A man takes up painting as therapy, only to discover his canvases have an uncontrollable power over him.

Life Class, by Pat Barker (Doubleday: \$23.95) Three art-school friends face World War I.

Nonfiction

In Defense of Food, by Michael Pollan (Penguin Press: \$21.95) A look at dietary sacred cows.

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life's secrets distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

Send Yourself Roses, by Kathleen Turner with Gloria Feldt (Springboard Press: \$24.99) The actress recounts her life and career.

Women & Money, by Suze Orman (Spiegel & Grau: \$24.95) How to harness your finances, fix your credit and save for retirement.

The Age of American Unreason, by Susan Jacoby (Pantheon: \$26) A history of American society's descent into anti-intellectual junk culture.

Sit, Ubu, Sit, by Gary David Goldberg (Harmony: \$23.95) A memoir from the writer and producer of such TV hits as Family Ties and Spin City.

Become a Better You, by Joel Osteen (Free Press: \$25) Change through prayer and good habits.

Manic, by Terri Cheney (Publisher: \$24.95) A onetime high-powered entertainment lawyer relates the fractured life that bipolar disorder has given her.

The Nine, by Jeffrey Toobin (Doubleday: \$27.95) The inner workings of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Reconciliation, by Benazir Bhutto (Harper: \$27.95) The assassinated Pakistani leader's thoughts on bridging Islamic and Western cultures. ((c) 2008 Los Angeles Times)

Stallone, Rock, Shandling make

the witness list

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Syl-

vester Stallone, Chris Rock and

Garry Shandling were included

on a list of potential witnesses

released Wednesday in the fed-

eral wiretapping trial of a Hol-

lywood private eye and four co-

Lawyers also completed jury

selection in the case. Opening

statements were set to begin

Thursday, with private investi-

gator Anthony Pellicano acting

The witness list compiled

by prosecutors included 127

people, but it was not clear how

U.S. District Judge Dale Fis-

cher said she couldn't imagine

federal prosecutors calling that

chairman and chief executive

officer of Paramount Pictures;

Ron Meyer, president and chief

executive officer of Universal

Studios; and former Walt Dis-

ney Co. president and powerful

Pellicano, 63, is accused of

running a criminal enterprise that

wiretapped phones and bribed

police and telephone workers.

Prosecutors said he obtained con-

fidential information that could be

used to gain advantage in divorce,

Stallone and Shandling were

alleged victims. Stallone told The

Associated Press last month he

wouldn't mind testifying. Repre-

sentatives of comedian Rock re-

tained Pellicano in a paternity bat-

tle, according to court documents.

Federal authorities previously

questioned Grey, Meyer and

prominent entertainment attor-

ney Bert Fields—who is also

on the list—about their connec-

Other prominent Hollywood fig-

ures on the list include Farrah Faw-

cett; attorney Bert Fields, whose

clients include Tom Cruise; and

actor Keith Carradine, whose ex-

wife Sonia Will Carradine pleaded

One of the first prosecution

witnesses will be retired baseball

player Matt Williams, who had a

bitter divorce battle with his second

wife, actress Michelle Johnson, in

2002. Prosecutors said in a court

filing they have an audio record-

ing of Williams and Pellicano but

didn't elaborate on its content.

guilty to perjury in the case.

tions to Pellicano.

business and other cases.

talent agent Michael Ovitz.

Also named were Brad Grey,

many people to testify.

many would actually testify.

defendants.

as his own lawyer.

'Medium' takes on Arquette sister act

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a family affair on NBC's "Medium."

Rosanna Arquette will guest star on sister Patricia's spooky show this spring, making her the third Arquette sibling to make a mark on the drama, NBC and show producer CBS Paramount Network announced Wednesday.

The episode, scheduled to air April 7, features the 48-year-old Arquette as "a beautiful, calculating 'cougar' who enjoys the challenges of bedding younger men" and pops up in the dreams of crime-fighting psychic Allison Dubois "when her sexual escapades turn deadly," the networks said.

"I have to say I have been calling in a lot of favors and I'm really excited about this particular part they wrote for her because Rosanna is a very strong comedic and dramatic actress and this role requires both elements," said Patricia Arquette, 39, who portrays Dubois.

"Of course, every time one of my siblings comes on set, the crew realizes that I have yet another sibling nicer than me," she said, before praising her sister's "great legs."

The Arquette acting family also includes David Arquette,



Sisters Rosanna Arquette and Patricia Arquette arrive for the 64th Annual Golden Globe Awards in this, Jan. 15, 2007, file photo in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Richmond Arquette and Alexis Arquette.

David recently directed two show two years ago.

episodes of "Medium," and Richmond guest starred on the

Keillor puts St. Paul house on market

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Humorist Garrison Keillor put his historic St. Paul home up for sale, a few weeks after a dispute with his neighbor over her building plans ended up in

The host of public radio's "A Prairie Home Companion" is asking \$1.65 million for the seven-bedroom, five-bath home, according to its listing on Realtor.com.

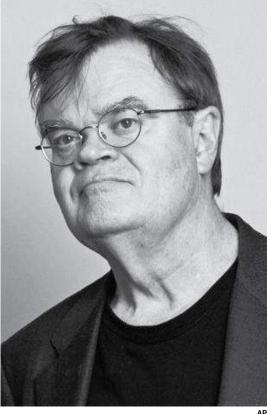
In January, Keillor and his wife sued nextdoor neighbor Lori Anderson to stop her from building a two-story garage-and-studio addition to her house. Keillor's lawsuit said the project would "obstruct the access of light and air" to his property.

The lawsuit was settled through mediation about a week later. The terms were not made

Real estate agent Mary Hardy told the Star Tribune of Minneapolis that the dispute isn't why Keillor is selling the house. She said he wanted a house with an airy, first-floor studio where he can work, and to that end he's made an offer for a nearby house with 4,000 square feet more space and a larger lot on a bluff.

That house's listing price is no longer public, but its taxable value was listed at just under \$1.6 million.

Keillor had not commented on the sale, his spokesman David O'Neill told the Star Tribune.



Radio personality Garrison Kiellor poses for a picture in this Oct. 3, 2006 file photo, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Al Franken company faces \$25,000 fine

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The state of New York fined the personal corporation of Democratic Senate candidate Al Franken \$25,000 for not carrying workers' compensation insurance for almost three years.

The New York Workers' Compensation Board levied the fine against Alan Franken Inc. in August 2006 for failure to carry the insurance from June 2002 to March 2005.

Brian Keegan, a board

spokesman, said a number of notices were sent to the address the New York agency had listed for Franken, but the television personality and political commentator didn't become aware of the fine until Tuesday, said his campaign spokesman, Andy Barr.

"If there's a mistake by the Frankens it was an inadvertent mistake as opposed to trying to evade the law." Barr said.

The fine was reported recently

by Minnesota Democrats Exposed, a Web site sympathetic to incumbent Republican Sen. Norm Coleman, whom Franken is seeking to unseat in November.

The Franken team believes it may have been a clerical mistake on the part of the Workers' Compensation Board, but it's also possible the Frankens did not keep the insurance current, Barr said.

If the latter turns out to be true, he said, Franken will pay

Barr said Franken and his wife moved from New York to Minnesota around the time the fine was imposed. He said Franken established the corporation to receive payments for speeches, royalty checks from his TV and movie roles and other income.

The corporation typically had anywhere from no employees to one or two part- or full-time employees at any one time, Barr said.

Woman boldly goes where neighbors shouldn't tread

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: When our real estate agent was showing us our house three years ago, the woman who lives next door walked into the back yard where we were standing to introduce herself. After we moved in, she knocked on our door one night carrying dinner for the two of us. It seemed like a neighborly gesture. We responded with a thank-you note.



Over the next few days, food would be laid at our door, always with a Post-It note saying, "From Bea." Soon she asked us to take care of her cats and plants while she went out of town for a week. We asked if she would reciprocate when we were away—she agreed.

After we returned from our trip, a woman I hardly knew came up to me at the market and said, "I LOVE your home! I can't believe you even have contrasting piping on the lining of your drawers!" Apparently, Bea had taken her on a tour of our house in our absence. When I told Bea I didn't appreciate it, she got angry with the woman for telling me!

Over the summer, I noticed Bea going quickly from place to place in the neighborhood with a smirk on her face. Without asking, she would take her lawn mower and mow people's yards when she felt the grass was too high. Once she tried to encourage me to help her cut back the branches of another neighbor's tree that she felt was overgrown. Her husband says she never feels guilty, only sad at getting caught.

Her most recent escapade involves a shrub in our yard. In winter it loses its leaves. I came home one day to find it "replaced." I have also discovered that she "befriends" elderly single ladies down the street, convinces them to sell at belowmarket prices, and turns their homes into rental properties.

What kind of person am I dealing with, and how can we handle this? Is she crazy?

—DAVID IN PHOENIX

DEAR DAVID: The person you have described is highly manipulative, does not respect boundaries and appears to have no conscience. She has no right to enter someone else's property without permission and cut their grass or trim their trees, and doing so could be considered trespassing. As for replacing your shrub, if you could prove she took it, you could take her to court and she would have to replace the one she took with one like it.

I hope you realize that by convincing the neighbors to sell their homes at below-market rates, she is adversely affecting the price of your property because a buyer would compare your asking price with that of other homes that have sold in your neighborhood.

This woman is crazy like a fox. If she's manipulating elderly people who don't know any better, then in my opinion, she's guilty of elder abuse—and that's against the law.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently went on vacation. He invited his sister to go with us. Every night at dinner, they would reminisce about their childhood—people they knew and things they did.

I am not from the same hometown as they are. I told my husband it was rude for the two of them to have done that. He feels we have enough "together time" and he did nothing wrong. Abby, what are your thoughts?

-OUTSIDER IN GREENVILLE, S.C.

DEAR OUTSIDER: It is normal, natural and understandable that siblings who haven't seen each other in a while would take some time to reminisce. However, to leave you sitting at the table feeling like a third wheel was inconsiderate of your feelings, if that's the topic that dominated the entire meal.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447, (Postage is included.)

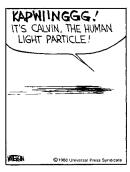
34 FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson **Garfield**®

By Jim Davis



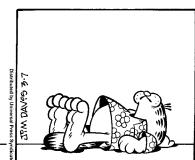












Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy







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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Paul Cattermole, 31; Jenna Fischer, 34; Daniel J. Travanti, 68; Willard Scott, 74

Happy Birthday: Until you are willing to let go of things from your past, you can't move forward. Become engaged in something positive that can bring you plenty in return. If you continue to spin your wheels, you will waste valuable time that could be put to better use. Don't harbor ill feelings. Your numbers are 1, 16, 23, 28, 34, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Problems will surface, however, if you stay calm, they won't be too difficult to rectify. Should you overreact or let your temper flare, you will put yourself in a vulnerable position. There will be a hidden agenda to uncover. •••

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful how you delegate your time or someone will take advantage of you. You have to be the one to make the final decision. Stand up for your rights and you will avoid getting stuck

with responsibilities that aren't yours. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Take the time to do well whatever you have on your agenda or someone will criticize you. Your charm coupled with wit and a little good storytelling will seal any deal you are working on, providing you've stayed within workable boundaries. ��

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Deal with emotional issues head-on. A little Cancer charm coupled with attention and affection will put you in a prime position for a warmhearted encounter. A suggestion or offer will lead to a better paying position. ••••

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone will offer you something you can't refuse or pay back a favor or debt owed. Love is in the stars but be sure that you are reading correctly the signals being sent. Ulterior motives are

> VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your vision may be clouded due to emotional ups and downs, making it very important that you

gear any encounters you have toward positive affirmation, not negative complaints. A change at home will bring about good results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Have some fun, explore new avenues, pick up skills, hobbies or new friends but don't be lazy and miss out. Take your time—haste and anger must be avoided. Someone may get a little pushy. 🛇 😂

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you don't push for change now, you will probably miss out on an opportunity that is within your reach. You may have to rid yourself of some of the people in your life who have not come through for you. Don't hold onto something that isn't working.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone will be on to you if you exaggerate or make someone else look bad. Stick to the rules and avoid any backlash. Change is likely from someone who isn't happy about the

way you are dealing with emotional issues. **33**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take the most unusual path and you will fool anyone who may be trying to beat you **EUGENIA**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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the situation and acting accordingly. A chance to make gains is apparent. Move swiftly. ���� AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be fooled by someone who is being overly nice to you. This person is prob-

at your own game. It's a matter of understanding

ably trying to hold you back. You have to make everyone aware of what you need to do so you aren't burdened with other people's responsibilities. OOO PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't hes-

itate to let everyone know how you feel about the emotional issues in your life. Once you open up, adjustments will be put into play to suit your needs. Make appealing alterations at home. **QQQ**

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, giving and willing to help the underdog. You are open-minded but do like things done your way in the end. You are a charming storyteller.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	9						
			3	6	2		5
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	2	6	3	9	5	4	1
9	6	5	1	4	7	8	2	3
4	3	1	2	8	5	9	7	6
7	5	9	3	2	8	1	6	4
2	4	3	5	1	6	7	8	9
6	1	8	9	7	4	3	5	2
1	8	7	4	9	2	6	3	5
3	2	6	8	5	1	4	9	7
5	9	4	7	6	3	2	1	8
Difficulty Level ***								

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WONDERWORD

OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The l

IAT BOXES									
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Yesterday's Answer: Chamber

ALE. The locks of Whorlesonof for Kids' agoed to swape fine but the nursk-difficulty methods what varies to per transfered and a state of the state

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 **35**

CLASSIFIED AD

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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Salary:\$6.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Guam Cellular & Paging Co. dba Saipancell at tel. no. 235-7243.

1 MAINTENANCE MACHINISTS (WF 0014)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Asinta B. Pangelinan dba Asin's Mini Mart/Fish Market at tel. no. 235-5290.

1 COOK (WF 0015)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Asinta B. Pangelinan dba Asin's Catering/Snack Mobile at tel. no. 235-5290.

1 CHECKER (WF 0016)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: ASG Corporation dba Elite Printing at tel. no. 235-6465/2677.

1 ELECTRICIAN (WF 0017)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Selfarranged housing; selfarranged food: medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Crisanta M. Travilla dba 234-8385.

1 STOREKEEPER (WF 0018)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Susan S. Castro dba Solomon Enterprises at tel. no. 256-7656.

Laundry & Linen Supply Co., Ltd.

3 LAUNDRY WORKER (WF 0002)

Salary:\$3,55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical insurance; workers compensation; sick leave & vacation leave. Contact: Tropical

@322-3077/8.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0003)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Alma N. Indalecio dba A&F Janitorial Services @286-5518.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0004)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Alma N. Indalecio dba A&F Janitorial Services @286-5518.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0005)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Alma N. Indalecio dba A&F Janitorial Services @286-5518.

1 KITCHEN HELPER (WF 0006) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Alma N. Indalecio dba A&F Food Express Catering @286-5518.

1 ACCOUNTANT (WF 0007)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation insurance provided. Contact: Shun Yi American Corp. dba Mellinium Catering/Restaurant @285-1519.

1 GEN. MANAGER (WF 0008) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer housing; employee food; medical & worksmen compensation. Contact: Vargas Corporation @235-0297.

1 STEELWORKER (WF 0009)

Salary:\$3.75-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & worksmen compensation. Contact: Hayden Corporation @234-7900.

1 YARD MAINTENANCE (WF 0010)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; self arrange transportation; workmens compensation & medical expense. Contact: Micronesia Woodcraft Ent., Inc. dba Woodcraft and Handicraft @235-7631.

1 BIOMEDICAL (SERVICE ENGI-NEER) TECHNICIAN (WF 0011) Salary:\$5.00-\$15.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; workers compensation as required by law & medical coverage as required by law. Contact: Pacific Biomedical Services, inc. dba PBSI

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (WF 0012)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Feng Hua Ent., Inc. dba Feng Hua Market @235-9147.

1 COOK (FSUN 0019)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

2 FOOD SERVER (FSUN 0020) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's

WHATZIT Solution: Hot under the collar

Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

1 WAREHOUSE WORKER (FSUN 0021)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

2 FOOD ATTENDANT (FSUN 0022)

Salary:\$3.55/houir. Benefits: Workmans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

2 KITCHEN HELPER (FSUN 0023)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Work-



mans compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (FSUN 0024)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; provided own food; workers compensation; medical covered & free transportation. Contact: Advance Group, LLC dba Advance X-Terminators & Pest Control @233-4747.

1 MANAGER (FSUN 0025)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food on duty; workers compensation & medical provided by employer. Contact: Saigon Enterprises, Inc. dba Saigon Vietnam Restaurant @233-6868.

Moving Sale Indoor

Apartment #2 in Atdao Street, Dandan blue tent outside beige house across from Javilli 2 Store Saturday, 3/8/08 to 3/10/08 from 8pm, Sunday, 5 pm to 8pm, Monday 8 to 8pm Look out for a silver Masda 3.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS) **COMBO** (PRINT AND ONLINE)

 3-Liner • 5-Liner \$35 • 3-Liner with picture \$45 • 5-Liner with picture \$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position \$13.00 2nd position \$5.00 **Succeeding positions** \$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements in Saipan that include corresponding benefits and which positions are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publica-

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

2 COOK (FSUN 0026) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medi-

cal & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Ming Dynasty Investment Corp. dba Ming Palace Chinese Restaurant @234-1005.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (FSUN 0027)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Ming Dynasty Investment Corp. dba Ming Palace Chinese Restaurant @234-1005.

1 BARTENDER (FSUN 0028) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Ming Dynasty Investment Corp. dba Ming Palace Chinese Restaurant @234-1005.

1 CARPENTER (FSUN 0029) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

2 MASON (FSUN 0030)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 CARPET LAYER (FSUN 0031) Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE RE-PAIRER (FSUN 0032)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (FSUN 0033)

Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241

1 BDLG. MAINTENANCE (CLEANER) REPAIRER (FSUN 0034)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided

food: medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 GRAPHICS DESIGNER (FSUN 0036)

Salary:\$1,670.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Hi-Five Co., Ltd. @233-4616.

1 INTERPRETER (ASSISTANT ADVISOR) (FSUN 0037)

Salary: \$1,000.00-\$1,500.00/ monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Hi-Five Co., Ltd. @233-4616.

1 ACCOUNTING MANAGER (FSUN 0038)

Salary:\$1,211.54-\$1,332.70/ monthly. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

3 CAR RENTAL CLERK (FSUN 0039)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.15/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance: vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Rentals (Micronesia), Inc. dba Hertz Rent A Car @234-1795.

1 LOT ATTENDANT (SUPERVI-SOR) (FSUN 0040)

Salary:\$4.33-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Rentals (Micronesia), Inc. dba Hertz Rent A Car @234-1795.

1 AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC (FSUN 0041)

Salary:\$3.90-\$4.15/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Rentals (Micronesia), Inc. dba Hertz Rent A Car @234-1795.

1 ETHYLENE COMPRESSOR OPERATOR (FSUN 0042) Salary:\$4.40-\$4.65/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical

insurance: vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, Inc. @322-6502.

1 ACCOUNTANT (FSUN 0043) Salary:\$6.06-\$6.31/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, Inc. @322-6502.

2 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (FSUN 0044)

Salary:\$3.55-\$6.25/hour. Benefits: Self arranged food; medical coverage expenses & workers compensation. Contact: Joseph C. Ada dba Ada's Apartment @234-6854.

1 GEN. MAINTENANCE & REPAIR (FSUN 0045)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Dr. Vicente S. Aldan @235-8864.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

1997 NISSAN

For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam credit Department at telephone number (670) 233-5000 extension 205, 206, 207 and 208, Bids will be closed on

Monday, March 10, 2008 at **3:00 p.m.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

BANK OF GU

THE PEOPLE'S BANK

P.O. Box 500678, Saipan MP 96950

The Saipan Tribune now offers

Classified Ads

Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

Saipan Tribune Saipan Tribune NMI cervical cancer rate higher than mainland. PAGE 3 "Rescinces Supplied" survision a success. PAGE 5

wage hike O

Bush sig

3-LINER AD

5-LINER AD

W/ PHOTO

Get results. Advertise now!

Call now at 235-2769 for more details.

Liquidated Fund assets ex



Northern Marianas College Procurement & Property Management Office

INVITATION FOR BID *****AMENDED*****

IFB 08-001 - Paupau Beach Marine-Environmental and Marine-Culture Center Demonstration Center Construction Project

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for construction of the Paupau Beach Environmental Marine and Mari-Culture Demonstration Center, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern

Bid Packages are due March 21st, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. All bidders must pay a Bid Security Deposit of 15% of their total bid when submitting bid packages.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC and CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because; it is prohibited by the federal law granting the funding for this project. For bidders located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@mmcnet.edu). There may be a processing fee.

a processing fee.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$5.50 per hour every six (6) months (or next effective dates) until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of \$7.50 per hour.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 that requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds and the pusingene residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extensible".

provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible. All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business affirmatively insure that it any contract effects into pursuant to this activation, which is a first in the discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Duane R.T. Sablan NMC Procurement & Property Property Management Office

Manuel A. Sablan Chairman & Contracting Officer Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (FSUN 0046)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

2 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (FSUN 0047)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

1 BUTCHER (FSUN 0048)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

1 STORE SUPERVISOR (FSUN 0047)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's & health expenses company provided. Contact: Lilia Alcairo dba Kamiseta @233-2244.

2 MASON (FSUN 0048)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical/compensation. Contact: Leticia Reves dba LR Consulting & Construction @233-0691/323-0691.

1 SALES MANAGER (FSUN 0049)

Salary:\$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self arrange; medical & workers compensation insurance employer provided. Korean speaking, reading and writing is a must. Contact: Blue Star Corporation dba Saipan Island Tour @287-1259.

1 MARKETING MANAGER (FSUN 0050)

Salary:\$1,200.00-\$1,500.00/ monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self arrange; medical & workers compensation insurance employer provided. Korean speaking, reading and writing is a must. Contact: Blue Star Corporation dba Saipan Island Tour @287-1259.

1 SEWING MACHINE OPERA-TOR (FSUN 0051)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Saipan Fashion Company dba Li Hua Dress Shop @234-1282.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (FSUN 0052)

Salary:\$615.33-\$800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: American Global Voice Ltd. dba VIP Massage @233-8119.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (FSUN 0053)

Salary:\$650.00-\$750.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Dolphin Brain Inc. @233-0174.

1 MAINTENANCE SUPERIVSOR (FSUN 0054)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Sim Corporation @235-2162.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (FSUN 0055)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Sim Corporation @235-2162. Corporation @235-2162.

1 GAS ATTENDANT (FSUN 0056)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Sim

1 COOK HELPER (FSUN 0057)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; worker compensation insurance. Contact: Park Corporation dba Dae Jang Kum Restaurant @234-9595.

ISLA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC. FOR LEASI

in San Vicente very near San Vicente **Elementary School.**

1-BEDROOM CONCRETE HOUSE

in Tanapag, across I-Mart. Very big yard.

4-BEDROOM EXECUTIVE HOUSE

in San Vicente, near Dandan Elementary School. The house is spaceous, newly renovated, with 3 baths, and big yard includes a small house for a house worker.

If interested, please call DEO MANESE of ISLA Property Management, Inc. at 234-6445 extension 584.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 6:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Lands, Joeten Building, DanDan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

- A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Commu-
- Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
- **Contested Cases**
- **Old Business**
 - Discussion about Establishment of Adult Business Overlay Zoning Districts
- New Business
- **Public Comment**
- **Executive (Closed) Session Consult with Legal** Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal
- Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS **DPW08-RFP-016**

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN OF PRECINCT IV SECONDARY ROADS & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the Preliminary Engineering Design of Precinct IV Secondary Roads & Drainage Improvement on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement of this RFP is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section4-102 of the Procurement Regulations. Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the

CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040. The Scope of Work will be available on or after March 07, 2008 at the DPW, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center Office. Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled on March 28, 2008. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 04, 2008.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

Technical Requirements

- Professional Qualifications necessary for satisfactory performance of services- 25%
- Project approach 25%
- Capacity to accomplished the work in the required time- 25%
- Past performance on contract with Government on similar project- 25%

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW08-PFP-016". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2008. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2008 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@ bicom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2008 and must be received no later than April 22, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made wherefrom, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals may be solicited upon public announcement, however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firms. Such fee proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable

These projects are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) with local matching funds provided by the CNMI Government. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the Department of Interior (DOI/OIA).

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ JOSE S. DEMAPAN

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **State Board of Education**

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid IFB 08-024

The Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the renovation of the following PSS Head Start Centers:

- 1. Tanapag Head Start
- W.S. Reyes Head Start (BLDG. B)

Detailed information on the scope of work and specifications are available, for a fee, at Pacific Quick Print & Post located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. All interested bidders, prior to obtaining copies of the detailed information, shall register with the PSS Office of Procurement & Supply.

The PSS Office of Procurement & Supply is located on the 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capital Hill Area, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-024" containing (1) original and five (5) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 18, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope mark-ed "IFB 08-024, CONFI DENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original and one copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor NMI Retirement Fund Building, on February 28, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. Site visits, to be scheduled, are mandatory. Scheduled dates and times are subject to change.

General inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Juan Babauta at telephone number 237-3062. Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruze@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A. **Commissioner of Education**

/S/ Carl Dela Cruz, M.B.A. Acting P & S Officer

LeBron has 50 points in win over Knicks



NEW YORK (AP)—LeBron James had 50 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 119-105 victory over the New York Knicks on Wednesday.

James shot 16-of-30 from the field, including 7-of-13 from 3-point range, in his second 50-point game this season. One fan in a Cavaliers jersey ran onto the floor toward the Cleveland bench before being turned away by security.

The NBA's scoring leader scored 45 points in a victory over the Knicks in Cleveland on Nov. 2. He fell two points shy of Kobe Bryant, who had a 52point game on Sunday against Dallas, the highest in the league this season.

Damon Jones added 15 points and Devin Brown had 14 for the Cavs.

Jamal Crawford scored 25 points, Nate Robinson added 24 and Eddy Curry had 20 for the Knicks.

Celtics 90, Pistons 78

At Boston, Kevin Garnett scored a season-high 31 points to lead Boston to a bruising victory over Detroit, as the Celtics became the first team in the NBA to clinch a playoff berth and earned the homecourt tiebreaker over their closest competitor.

Kendrick Perkins had a career-high 20 rebounds to go with his 10 points for the Celtics.

Rasheed Wallace and Chauncey Billups each had 23 points for Detroit.

Rockets 117, Pacers 99

At Houston, Tracy McGrady scored 25 points and Houston got its franchiserecord 16th straight win, making the Rockets 4-0 since losing Yao Ming for the season to injury.

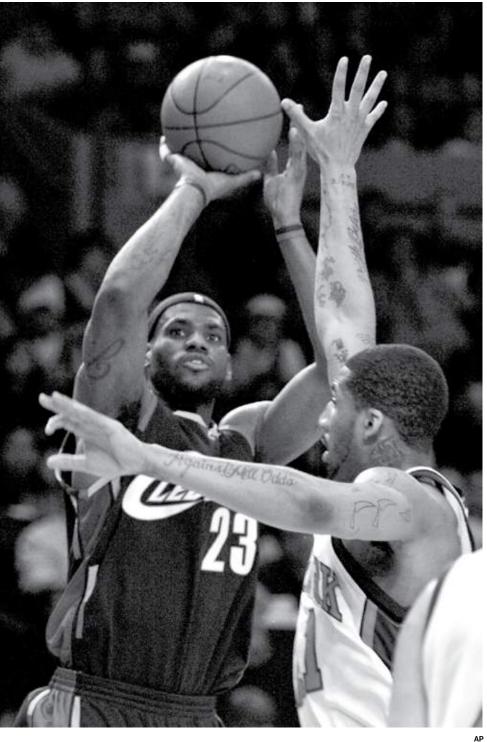
The Rockets have won 20 of their last 21, and own the longest win streak in the NBA this season. It's Houston's seventh straight win by at least 10 points, extending a franchise record.

Rafer Alston added 21 points and had seven assists for the Rockets.

Danny Granger and Troy Murphy had 17 points apiece to lead Indiana.

Nuggets 126, Suns 113

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony had 30 points and 13 rebounds and Denver beat Phoenix to pull within one game of Golden State for the final playoff spot in



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) shoots over New York Knicks' Wilson Chandler (21) during the second half of a basketball game Wednesday, March 5, 2008 in New York.

the Western Conference.

Allen Iversonscored 31 points to lead the Nuggets and reserve J.R. Smith added six 3-pointers and 20 points.

Amare Stoudemire led Phoenix with 22 points, and Shaquille O'Neal grabbed 18 rebounds and scored 12 points, but the Suns fell to 3-5 since his Suns debut.

Hornets 116, Hawks 101

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 23 points and 18 assists, and New Orleans tied a franchise record with 15 3-pointers in its victory over Atlanta.

Peja Stojakovic made six 3-pointers and led all scorers with 29 points to help the Hornets to their second straight victory and fourth in five

Joe Johnson scored 24 points and Mike Bibby 21 for Atlanta, which got as close as 62-59 in the third quarter but couldn't keep pace as New Orleans kept hitting from longe range.

Wright scored a career-high 13 points. Tyson Chandler threw down several alley-oop lobs from Paul and finished with 14 points and 16 rebounds. Pargo had 22 points.

Jazz 105, Timberwolves 76

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams had 21 points and 11 assists and Utah trounced Minnesota for its 17th straight home win.

Carlos Boozer had 16 points and 14 rebounds, Mehmet Okur added 15 points and nine boards and Ronnie Brewer scored 16 for the Jazz.

Randy Foye scored 18 points and Al Jefferson had 11 points and 10 assists for the Timberwolves.

Raptors 108, Heat 83

At Miami, Rasho Nesterovic had 16 points and 10 rebounds, Jamario Moon added 14 points and Toronto embarrassed Miami for the second time this season to snap a three-game skid.

Anthony Parker and Andrea Bargnani each scored 12 points for the Raptors, but Bargnani's night will be best re-

membered by a scary collision with Miami's Alexander Johnson that knocked the 2006 No. 1 overall pick out of the game early in the third quarter.

Marcus Banks scored 21 points, and Ricky Davis and Dwyane Wade each finished with 16 for Miami, which lost for the 29th time in 32 games to retain

the NBA's worst record (11-47).

Grizzlies 100, Nets 93

At Memphis, Tennessee, Hakim Warrick scored a season-high 25 points and Memphis snapped a nine-game losing streak by pulling away from New Jersey in the fourth quarter.

Mike Miller added 22 for the Grizzlies, Darko Milicic added 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Kyle Lowry finished with 15 points, and hit four free throws in the final 28 seconds to preserve the win.

Richard Jefferson led the Nets with 22 points, and Devin Harris, starting his second game since coming to New Jersey in a trade with Dallas for Jason Kidd, scored 20 points and had eight assists. Nenad Krstic scored 16 points and had nine rebounds.

Bucks 118, SuperSonics 106

At Milwaukee, Charlie Villanueva had 32 points and 11 rebounds as Milwaukee scored a season-high 118 points in beating Seattle.

Andrew Bogut added 21 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for Milwaukee, which was playing without guard Mo Williams and forward Yi, out with minor injuries.

Kevin Durant had 23 points for Seattle, which lost for the sixth time in seven games and dropped to 6-24 on the road.

Bobcats 118, Warriors 109

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Jason Richardson scored 42 points against his former team, and Charlotte snapped Golden State's four-game winning streak.

Richardson, who spent six seasons with the Warriors before being traded on draft night, was two points shy of his career high.

Raymond Felton added 22 points and Jared Dudley had 10 points and a career-best 18 rebounds for Charlotte, which closed the game on a 13-3 run against the league's top-scoring team.

Monta Ellis scored 32 points, Baron Davis added 30 and Stephen Jackson had 21 for Golden State, which is trying to hold onto the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Magic 122, Wizards 92

At Washington, Dwight Howard had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and Orlando made an emphatic statement in a possible playoff preview by dominating Washington.

The Magic never trailed, took a quick 10-2 lead and hardly looked back in winning their third straight game.

Rashard Lewis had 13 of his 17 points in the first half for the Magic, and Keith Bogans went 5-for-5 in the first half for 12 of his 17 points.

Antawn Jamison scored 19 points for the Wizards, who had won four of five and were trying to get back to .500 for the first time since Feb. 8.

Clippers 116, Kings 109

At Los Angeles, Al Thornton scored 13 of his 27 points after regulation, Corey Maggette added 22 and Los Angeles Clippers rallied from a 17-point deficit to down Sacramento.

Dan Dickau scored a season-high 20 points, helping Los Angeles snap a sixgame losing streak.

Beno Udrih scored 25 points for

Marbury wants to stay with Knicl NEW YORK (AP)—Stephon Marbury already be planning to move on without wants to finish his contract with the his point guard. Before a game last week, Knicks, and acknowledged being hurt Thomas said the Knicks would need a recently when Isiah Thomas indicated he might have a different plan.

Marbury came to a game at Madison Square Garden on Wednesday night for the first time since having ankle surgery on Jan. 22. He said he doubts he'll be able to return this season, but hopes he's still wearing a Knicks uniform in 2008-09.

"I pray to God that's what happens. I love New York. This is the only place that I want to be in," Marbury said before New York played Cleveland. "This is it. Like I said, there's not too many players that can say when they played on other teams that they were a fan of another team. I can honestly and truthfully say that."

Thomas, the president and coach, may

third guard next season to play with Jamal Crawford and Nate Robinson, even though Marbury would be in the final vear of his deal. He's slated to make about \$21 million next year.

"It bothered me, it bothered me a lot," said Marbury, who seemed glum in his first remarks to the media since Jan. 16. "But like I said, I know where my heart is at and I know what I want to do, so I can't speak on what someone else is saying or how they feel. For me, I want to be back here more than anything."

Thomas and Marbury were once close and they are neighbors in Westchester County. But their relationship has seemed strained since November, when Marbury left the team before a game in Phoenix after a dispute with Thomas.

Thomas has recently been cutting comment about questions regarding short his interview sessions when the why he was at this game and none of topic turns to Marbury, speaking for barely two minutes Tuesday and less than four at Wednesday's shootaround. He seemed to leave room for a Marbury return next season during the latter remarks when he said Marbury "has a contract next year."

"I mean he's the president of this team, so whatever he says, whatever he's saying, is going to go," Marbury said. "I can't change his mind, I'm just telling vou how I feel about the organization.

"My heart is here and it's always been here. So things don't work out the way how you want them to work out all the time, so you can't just give up on it. I know for myself I haven't given up."

However, there are still signs the relationship between Thomas and Marbury is in trouble. Marbury twice refused to the previous ones since his surgery. There have been reports Thomas ordered him to stay away from the team.

Marbury averaged a career-worst 13.9 points in 24 games this season, with long absences following his father's death in December and after the surgery.

"This has been the toughest, toughest time in my life, from a childhood coach dying to my aunt dying to my father dying, ankle surgery, it's been tough," Marbury said. "But I've been able to weather the storm, I just thank God for me being able to be able to have the mind to know how to stay focused and stay in tune as far as what needs to be done going forward for me to have some sanity, because it's been really tough."

McNamee wants Clemens lawsuit dismissed



Roger Clemens throws a pitch during batting practice with minor leaguers at the Houston Astros spring training facility Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008 in Kissimmee, Fla.

NEW YORK (AP)—Brian McNamee asked a federal judge to throw out Roger Clemens' defamation suit and to disqualify the pitcher's lead attorney.

McNamee's lawyers filed motions Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Houston, where the case was moved after Clemens filed it in Texas state court. They said that because McNamee made statements to baseball investi-

gator George Mitchell as part of an agreement with federal prosecutors, anything Mc-Namee said to Mitchell was covered by "absolute immunity."

An initial conference is scheduled for April 9, and the case has been assigned to U.S. District Judge Keith P. Ellison, a former law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun. Ellison was nominated for the bench by former President Clinton.

Clemens claims he was defamed when McNamee, his former personal trainer, said the pitcher used steroids and human growth hormone from

"Rather than acknowledging the

truth of Mr. McNamee's allegations, Mr. Clemens has chosen to wage a public-relations battle against Mr. Mc-Namee in the media and the Halls of Congress," the motion stated.

At the request of Congress, the FBI is investigating whether Clemens lied when he repeated denials under oath last month.

Perhaps setting up grounds for a countersuit, the motion to dismiss said McNamee's "financial status has rapidly deteriorated."

"He has earned little since this complaint was filed and has poor prospects of future employment," the motion said. McNamee stated he had earned only \$1,500 in the first two months of this year and may make a similar amount in March.

McNamee's lawyers said Texas was not the proper venue for the suit because their client's comments were made in New York about conduct of Clemens that took place largely in New York and Toronto. They said McNamee had made only sporadic and short visits

to Texas in his work with Clemens.

"Brian McNamee's statements to the Mitchell commission and others concerning steroid and HGH use by Roger Clemens are absolutely false and the very definition of defamatory," Clemens' lead lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said in a statement. "We look forward to trying this matter before a jury rather than in the court of public opinion."

McNamee's lawyers also asked that Hardin be removed from the case because he also represented Andy Pettitte for a period last year. They said one of Pettitte's new lawyers, Thomas Farrell, said Pettitte would not waive attorneyclient privilege for conversations between Pettitte and Hardin.

"Continuing to represent Mr. Clemens would violate Mr. Hardin's duty of loyalty to Mr. Pettitte," McNamee's papers said.

Hardin brushed aside that argument. "I intend to continue representing Roger in this case, and will file an appropriate response to this motion with the court," Hardin said.

FBI opens investigation of Roger Clemens

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI has begun investigating whether Roger Clemens lied to Congress when he denied taking performance-enhancing drugs. FBI agents in Washington opened the case a little more than two weeks after Clemens and Brian McNamee, his former personal trainer, testified at a House committee hearing Feb. 13, each accusing the other of lying.

"The request to open an investigation on the congressional testimony of Roger Clemens has been turned over to the FBI and will receive appropriate investigative action by the FBI's Washington field office," FBI spokeswoman Debra Weierman said Thursday.

The inquiry announcement came one day after two leaders of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee asked Attorney General Michael Mukasey to investigate Clemens. The probe could result in charges against Clemens of perjury, making false statements or obstruction of justice. Lawmakers did not ask for a similar investigation of McNamee.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, testified under oath that he never used steroids or human growth hormone. McNamee said he injected Clemens with performance-enhancers at least 16 times from 1998-01.

"We've always expected they would open an investigation," said Clemens' lead lawyer, Rusty Hardin. "They attended the Congressional hearing. So what's new?"

IRS Special Agent Jeff Novitzky, a key member of the government's prosecution in the BALCO drug cases, attended the hearing and watched from the second row.

Earl Ward, McNamee's lead lawyer, wanted to confer with his client before commenting.

Barry Bonds, a seven-time MVP, was indicted in November on perjury and obstruction of justice charges stemming from his 2003 grand jury testimony in which he denied knowingly taking illegal performance-enhancing drugs.

Clemens was first identified as tak-

ing steroids in a December report by former Senate majority leader George Mitchell, a Boston Red Sox director hired by baseball commissioner Bud Selig to examine drug use in baseball. The Mitchell Report was the first public accounting of McNamee's allegations that he injected Clemens with HGH and steroids.

Two of Clemens' former New York Yankees teammates, Andy Pettitte and Chuck Knoblauch, have both acknowledged that McNamee was correct when he said they used performance enhancers.

In a letter seeking the inquiry, the House panel cited sworn statements by Pettitte, who said Clemens had discussed HGH with him nearly a decade ago.

"We believe that his testimony in a sworn deposition on Feb. 5, 2008, and at a hearing on Feb. 13, 2008, that he never used anabolic steroids or human growth hormone, warrants further investigation," committee chairman Henry Waxman of California and ranking Republican Tom Davis of Virginia wrote.

"That testimony is directly contradicted by the sworn testimony of Brian McNamee, who testified that he personally injected Mr. Clemens with anabolic steroids and human growth hormone," the lawmakers wrote.

"Mr. Clemens's testimony is also contradicted by the sworn deposition testimony and affidavit submitted to the committee by Andrew Pettitte, a former teammate of Mr. Clemens, whose testimony and affidavit reported that Mr. Clemens had admitted to him in 1999 or 2000 that he had taken human growth hormone.'

Waxman's office declined comment Thursday.

Clemens is the latest professional athlete to come under federal scrutiny for statements made about alleged use of steroids or performance-enhancing drugs. Last month, the FBI opened an investigation into whether Houston Astros shortstop Miguel Tejada lied in 2005 when he told federal authorities he never took steroids or HGH.

Blalock stiff and sore after accident

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP)—Texas Rangers third baseman Hank Blalock was stiff and sore Tuesday, a day after his vehicle was rear-ended while stopped at an intersection.

Blalock, his wife and their 3 1/2-yearold son were returning from lunch when the accident occurred near Surprise. Blalock said they were all OK.

"We got crushed hard," Blalock said Tuesday while sitting at his locker. "I've been in car accidents before. We got hit hard."

The impact crushed the front end of the car that hit Blalock's luxury SUV, though the air bags in his vehicle didn't deploy. Blalock's SUV, which he drove to work Tuesday, has a cracked rear fender.

Blalock didn't go to Scottsdale with the team for Monday's game against San Francisco. Blalock got his third straight game off after playing the first three, his first games at third base

since surgery last May to remove a rib that was affecting nerves.

Manager Ron Washington had planned for Blalock to be the designated hitter Tuesday against Arizona, but changed his mind after the accident that left the third baseman with a stiff neck.

"We're just going to play it day by day and see how he feels," Washington said. "He's got the whiplash working. I guess y'all have seen the whole body turning. He's a young kid, so he should bounce back. At least his family is well."

Blalock, a two-time All-Star, wasn't expected to play in the field Tuesday, but was going to play catch and go through some drills. He has had soreness in his arm and his back.

"It's no big deal. They're being real careful with me," Blalock said.

"We're not concerned about the shoulder," Washington said. "It's a little sore. He's been doing a lot of throwing."

Hawpe agrees to \$17M deal with Rockies

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Brad Hawpe and Colorado agreed Tuesday to a \$17,425,000, three-year contract, making the right fielder the fourth key Rockies player to receive a longterm deal following the team's first World Series appearance last October.

The deal, which includes a club option for 2011, replaces the \$3,925,000, one-year contract that had been agreed to in January.

"I think the Rockies have made a good commitment to the players and I think the players have worked hard to build up the franchise," Hawpe said. "I think there's a good thing going on here, not just the players and the front office, but everyone involved all the way through the minor league system."

The 28-year-old Hawpe hit .291 last year with 29 homers and 116 RBIs. He slumped against left-handed pitching for much of the summer, giving Ryan

Spilborghs more playing time, although he finished strong against lefties down the stretch.

Hawpe hit .377 with runners in scor-9-for-20 with the bases loaded, including his first career grand slam.

Colorado also recently agreed to longterm deals with right-hander Aaron Cook (\$34.5 million over four years), shortstop Troy Tulowitzki (\$31 million over six years) and closer Manny Corpas (\$8,025,000 over four years).

Left fielder Matt Holliday agreed to a \$23 million, two-year deal, covering his arbitration eligibility. The next candidate for a multivear deal could be third baseman Garrett Atkins.

"I think it's another step in the right direction," Tulowitzki said of Hawpe's deal. "There are some guys out there still I would like to play with for the years remaining on my

contract, but they're definitely taking the right approach and getting guys locked up.

"The goal is to go to and win a ing position with two outs. He went World Series," he said. "We proved we're capable of getting there and showed how close we are, so they stepped up and are showing they want to keep us together."

> While providing the Rockies with cost certainty in coming years, the deals provide security for the players at what could be bargain prices should they continue to progress at the same rate they have.

> "You've got to make sacrifices to make things work," Hawpe said. "I think the Rockies made some sacrifices and I think the players have made sacrifices instead of going out to find better deals. ... Sometimes you just have to be happy with where you're at and I think we're all happy to be playing with each other."

Aikman: Brett Favre will have doubts



Christopher Handler paints a fence across from Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis. on Tuesday March 4, 2008 with a thank you message for Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre for all the memories.



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Troy Aikman says it's a sure thing: Brett Favre will have second thoughts about hanging

up his helmet.

The Hall of Fame quarterback knows how hard it is to walk away from the NFL and never look back. Even after a series of concussions led Aikman to retire from the Dallas Cowboys after the 2000 season, he was tempted to come back two years later.

"I was ready to go and had talked with my wife and everything about it," Aikman told The Associated Press by phone.

Aikman figures Favre will feel the same pull the closer the 2008 season gets. And he wouldn't be surprised if Favre changes his mind and sends heir apparent Aaron Rodgers back to the bench.

"You want to walk out on top," said Aikman, now an analyst for Fox Sports. "But at the same time, you're walking away from something you really enjoy."

Favre told the Green Bay Packers he was retiring Tuesday, but hasn't

addressed the media beyond brief voice mails, citing fatigue as the main reason.

Aikman is looking forward to hearing the three-time MVP fully explain his decision. He wonders if Favre will give himself any wiggle room, similar to Michael Jordan's famous assertion that he was "99.9 percent" sure he was done playing after retiring from the Chicago Bulls in 1999. Jordan, of course, came back to play for the Washington Wizards.

Aikman isn't the only one who expects Favre to question his decision.

"I think he'll definitely have second thoughts, knowing him," former Green Bay Packers coach Mike Sherman said. "He's a creature of habit."

Favre even broached the subject in his conversations with Packers coach Mike McCarthy on Monday night, when he first brought up his intention to retire.

"We talked about the reality that he'll experience," McCarthy said. "And he was telling me about the conversation he'd shared with a family member about when the games start in the fall, it's going to probably

hit him the hardest." But as far as McCarthy is concerned, Favre wasn't waffling.

"I would say that's all speculation," McCarthy said. "Not based on the conversations I've had with Brett."

Packers general manager Ted Thompson said Favre seemed "at peace" with his decision when he made it final in a conversation with Thompson on Tuesday morning.

"But as I've also said, it's a very complicated decision process that he has go to through on this," Thompson said. "I guess you never say never, but I wouldn't anticipate that."

Aikman knows firsthand that retirement isn't necessarily permanent. He fully intended to return to the NFL two years after he retired from the Cowboys, only to have his prospective new team—he won't say which one—pull the plug on the deal at the last minute.

"They were hesitant, for whatever reason, whether it be the health issue, the concussions, or how it would be perceived publicly," Aikman said.

All things considered, Aikman said it was just as well.

"I was glad it didn't work out, in

have as good a year as I expected."

And perhaps Favre is better off retiring, too.

"When you start giving this much thought to retirement, I think that is a pretty good indicator that it's time," Aikman said.

Sherman, now the coach at Texas A&M, figures Favre will struggle to stay away from football, but eventually will settle into a new routine.

"Once he makes it through that first year, he'll be OK after that," Sherman said.

But what if he doesn't make it that far?

Packers chairman emeritus Bob Harlan said "somebody would find a place for him" if Favre called the Packers in July saying he wanted to play. But Harlan doesn't expect that to happen.

"I would assume he's given this a lot of thought, and I've always felt (wife) Deanna would have a lot to say about it when the time came," Harlan said.

Harlan said it would be a shame to see Favre try a halfhearted comeback similar to that of late Packers defensive end Reggie White. He actually retired three times—once briefly before the 1998 season, once after he changed his mind and played for the Packers in 1998, and then for good after one unremarkable season with Carolina in 2000.

"We've always seen a lot of great, great athletes who decide to try that one more year and it's a disappointment," Harlan said. "I've always felt badly that Reggie came back and played that year at Carolina because he wasn't the same Reggie White. And I think it'd be very sad to see that this wasn't the same Brett Favre. He has been so magnificent. He went out on top: great season, great team record. It's a great way for him to exit and add to his legacy.'

Hometown residents respectful of Favre

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP)— Magnolia trees swayed and palm fronds rustled in a cool wind along the stately iron gateway to Brett Favre's massive farm, set in rolling pinecovered hills just west of this southern Mississippi town.

There were no makeshift signs honoring his Hall of Fame quality career, no groups of curious onlookers or lines of cars parked on the edge of the rural, four-lane highway that runs past his driveway.

It was quiet, and locals showed little interest in disturbing one of the NFL's greatest quarterbacks Tuesday, the day he announced his retirement. They knew that's the way the longtime Green Bay Packer would want it.

"In Green Bay, there are days up there when he can't pump gas" without drawing a crowd, said Paul Calhoun, Favre's friend and a veterinarian who cares for the quarterback's dogs. "Here, it's not like that. He can go anywhere and do anything he wants to here.

"I wish him the best and he'll be fine.'

For his part, Favre spent Tuesday, a historic one for the NFL, trying to go about his day as normally as possible. A woman who works on the 460-acre property—with a calligraphy "F" molded into the black iron front gate—said the quarterback had accompanied his youngest daughter, Breleigh, on a field trip to Jackson, the state capital.

Closer to town, residents said they were saddened by the thought of no longer spending Sunday's watching the freewheeling quarterback who's back-yard, win-at-all-costs style they'd grown to love since he played his college ball here at Southern Mississippi.

"I think it's a sad day for Hattiesburg," said Louis Swarts, owner of Big Buck Sports, where Favre and his brother-in-law sometimes buy hunting gear.

On a desk in Swarts' office, balancing on a stack of papers, was a Southern Miss Golden Eagles football marked by Favre's unmistakable signature and the No. 4.

"Where I sit from, I hated to see him retire, but knowing his other interests and what he feels for his family—he enjoys staying out on his farm, they've got deer out at their place, he loves being on his tractor no one should second-guess what he's done," Swarts said. "The longevity of his career and the level at which he has played, he's just a winner."

Favre, who grew up in the small town of Kiln not far from Mississippi's Gulf Coast, played for Southern Miss from 1987 to 1990, surprisingly rising to starter during his freshman year.

Fans here loved him in part because he won, but also because he often did so with an ad-lib style that was exciting to watch.

"You never knew what to expect," Swarts said. "He was always doing something that was different."

Southern Miss retired Favre's No. 4 in 1993, making him just one of two Golden Eagles with that honor.

Favre played in the NFL for 17 seasons, so long that people like Jordan Toups, a senior at nearby Oak Grove High School, only knew Favre as a Packer, but looked up to him just the same.

"At first I was in disbelief, because for the past couple of years he was saying he was going to retire, but he didn't," said Toups, who was a year behind Favre's oldest daughter, Brittany, at Oak Grove. "When I found out it was actually true I was kind of disappointed. I mean, I've looked up to the guy. He's a legend. He's one of the best quarterbacks to ever play the game."

Toups was working at Bop's Frozen Custard, where employees sometimes look out the drivethrough window to see Favre or his wife looking back at them.

"It's kind of crazy to know that one of the best quarterbacks to ever play the game lives right down the road from you," Toups said. "I think he still has some gas in the tank, but I guess it's like they all say: go out on top."

Duckett to sign with Seattle

DETROIT (AP)—T.J. Duckett is of sparking a running game that has Michigan State. His best season came in heading to the Seattle Seahawks with significantly fallen off since Shaun 2003 when he rushed for 779 yards and a five-year contract, the free agent run- Alexander was the league MVP after 11 touchdowns with the Falcons. ning back told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

Duckett, who played for the Detroit Lions last season, has 2,642 career yards rushing and 36 touchdowns. When he wasn't slowed by injuries, Duckett was productive in limited opportunities in Detroit's pass-happy offense. Last season, he carried the ball 65 times for 335 yards.

How Duckett fits with the Seahawks will have to be determined. Seattle has recommitted to improving its running game this offseason, signing former Carolina Pro Bowl guard Mike Wahle and hiring former Kansas City offensive line coach Mike Solari as offensive line coach.

Both moves were made in the hopes

rushing for 1,880 yards and 27 rushing touchdowns in leading Seattle to the Super Bowl in 2005.

Seattle averaged just 4.0 yards per carry in 2006 and 3.8 last season. The struggles have been most notable in short-yardage situations. That's where Duckett's bullying running style could help. But he is likely to be stuck behind Alexander and Maurice Morris on the Seahawks' depth chart unless additional changes are coming.

A Seahawks spokesman said Tuesday the team had not signed Duckett, but were talking with his representatives.

Duckett previously played for the Washington Redskins and Atlanta Falcons, who selected him 18th overall in the 2002 draft after running for 3,379 yards at

Also Tuesday, Seattle hired former Michigan offensive coordinator Mike DeBord as an offensive assistant and signed tight end Jeb Putzier.

DeBord spent the last two years as offensive coordinator at Michigan under Lloyd Carr, who stepped down after last season. DeBord spent 27 years total coaching in college, including 12 years at Michigan. He was also head coach at Central Michigan for four years.

Putzier played two seasons with the Houston Texans and before that spent four years with the Denver Broncos. Last year, he played in eight games, and had six catches for 39 yards and a touchdown. Putzier has played in 61 career games and has 96 catches for 1,251 yards and three scores.

No. 6 Duke drubs Virginia, 86-70



CHARLOTTES-VILLE, Va. (AP)— Gerald Henderson scored 19 points and No. 6 Duke beat Vir-

ginia 86-70 on Wednesday night, setting up this weekend's showdown between the Blue Devils and top-ranked North Carolina for the ACC regularseason championship.

The Blue Devils (26-3, 13-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who got coach Mike Krzyzewski his 800th victory last Saturday at North Carolina State, can get him his 17th ACC title by completing a sweep of the Tar Heels on Saturday night at Duke.

Virginia (14-14, 4-11), playing its third game in five days, closed within 12 points with 7:42 to play, but was no match for the Blue Devils' depth.

Sean Singletary led Virginia with 18 points, while Calvin Baker had 15 and Mamadi Diane 12.

Kyle Singler scored 13 of his 18 points in the second half for Duke, while DeMarcus Nelson had 16, Greg Paulus 14 and Jon Scheyer 10. The Blue Devils hit 12 3-pointers and shot almost 51 percent from the field.

The game was largely decided in the first half, which ended with Duke leading 43-31 lead. The Blue Devils salted it away in the second half by pounding the ball inside.

Singler had four of Duke's first five field goals in the second half, all from within a few feet, and the Blue Devils used a 10-2 run to open a 61-43 lead.

Virginia went on a 10-0 run to get within 66-57, but Singler had a put-back and Nelson hit a 3-pointer and



Duke's Gerald Henderson, right, shoots the ball as Virginia defender Laurynas Mikalauskas, of Lithuania, defends during the second half of a Atlantic Coast Conference college basketball game in Charlottesville, Va., Wednesday, March 5, 2008

a putback to rebuild the lead to 73-59 and Virginia was out of comebacks.

The Blue Devils, who beat North Carolina 89-78 in their first meeting on Feb. 6 at Chapel Hill, did it then

with Tar Heels point guard Ty Lawson sidelined with a sprained left ankle. Lawson has returned and will play in the rematch at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

No. 4 Tennessee beats Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—JaJuan Smith scored 23 points and Chris Lofton added 21 as No. 4 Tennessee overcame a 16-point deficit to beat Florida 89-86 on Wednesday night.

The Volunteers (27-3, 13-2 Southeastern Conference) set a school record for victories and may have knocked the twotime defending national champions out of the NCAA tournament picture.

The Gators (21-9, 8-7) have lost six of their last 10 and might need to win the SEC tournament to earn a 10th consecutive NCAA berth.

They also might want to avoid facing Tennessee in the conference tournament.

The Volunteers overcame a 13-point deficit to beat the Gators 104-82 in Knox-ville last month and dug themselves out of an even bigger hole Wednesday.

Florida had two chances to send it to overtime, though.

Dan Werner committed an offensive foul on the first try. Then, Jai Lucas tipped the inbound pass off Smith's leg, which gave the Gators the ball back with 6.9 seconds to play.

Nick Calathes got the ball and took a deep 3-pointer that ricocheted off the back of the rim.

Calathes led Florida with 24 points and nine assists, while Marreese Speights added 21 points and seven rebounds.

Tennessee, which trailed 35-19 midway through the first half, started slicing into the lead after halftime.

Tyler Smith converted a three-point play, then made two spinning shots in the lane that helped the Volunteers trim it to 55-49.

Then Lofton and JaJuan Smith got hot from 3-point range.

Lofton's first 3, a wide-open shot from

the elbow, made it 63-58. His second, an off-balance shot with a defender in his face, got it to 69-68.

Smith's two 3s were equally impressive. After he gave the Volunteers their first lead of the game, 70-69, with a layup, he hit 3s on consecutive possessions. Both came a step or two behind the line and with a defender right there.

Tennessee extended the lead to 79-69 on Wayne Chism's reverse layup, but the Gators got right back in it.

Werner and Calathes hit 3-pointers, then Werner added a floater in the lane that made it 83-81.

Walter Hodge had a chance to tie the game with two free throws, but missed the second.

The Vols looked like they might blow the lead again when JaJuan Smith missed two free throws with 44.1 seconds remaining. But Tyler Smith got the rebound and banked it in to put them back up 87-85.

Tennessee hung on from there.

Florida, playing with the kind of passion coach Billy Donovan said his team had lacked most of the season, put together one of its best halves of the season to start the game.

The Gators made their first nine shots, including three 3-pointers and a jumper from Hodge, and led 23-10 before the game was 7 minutes old.

The Volunteers kept losing track of Hodge in the corner, Calathes kept finding him and Hodge kept draining shots.

Calathes was another big key to the fast start.

His dribble penetration forced the Vols to rotate, and then he dished to open teammates. It led to two easy baskets for Speights and two 3s for Dan Werner.



Borja is As-Pac tournament director



Saipan Little League vice president Michael A. Borja

will be the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament director when Saipan hosts the 2008 edition of the annual Little League World Series qualifying event in June.

CNMI district administrator James A. Ada made the announcement in yesterday's meeting held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room where committees were also formed to help prepare Saipan in hosting 10 other teams from Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

nior, and Big League Regional Tournament will be held from June 27 to July 4 at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field. Teams are expected to start arriving on or before June 26.

Borja said it was an honor to be appointed as this year's tournament director. "It will be a huge task at hand but I believe with the people behind me we can pull it through."

Joey Dela Cruz, Joe Mettao and Division of Sports and Recreation director Joe Lizama (facilities); CNMI assistant district administrator Tony Rogolifoi and former Little League president Joe Salas (technical); Lilian Ada, Cathy Salas, and Annie Flores (programs, awards, solic-

itation, accommodation, meals, and transportation); Roque Celis, Joe Lizama, and Ben Sablan (chief statistician), and James Miwata and Robert Guerrero (chief umpire) will help Borja.

The CNMI last hosted the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament in 2001. "After seven years we are hosting it again. Now we will see first class [Little league] baseball once more," said Borja.

Guam, Indonesia, and the Philippines will be competing with the CNMI for the three division titles, while Hong Kong will be sending a team in the Junior League division.

"Now we will have to meet with our elected officials to know the areas where they can help us. I am sure Gov. [Beni-



CNMI district administrator James A. Ada, second left, joins 2008

TARO From Page 44

but overall it is a fun course. [The organizers] have done a good job of balancing it this year," said Shirato when asked to describe the bike and trail runs of the XTER-RA course.

His students told him that they are out to challenge and test the signature XTERRA course, enjoy the competition, and have fun this weekend. "They know it will be hard but they don't

forget that everything is for fun. They just wanted to enjoy the course and the race."

Shirato said Marceau's absence would make this year's competition a wide-open race. "Anybody can win it. I also like my chances this year since Olivier is really too strong for everybody."

Marceau decided to skip the 2008 XTERRA Saipan to focus more with his training to qualify for the Swiss national triathlon team for the Beijing Olympics this year.

"Olivier is a great athlete and is

my good friend. He wanted to go to Beijing this year but this guy loves Saipan and I am sure he will be back again next year."

Despite Marceau's absence, Shirato said he is still not sure of winning this year since one of his main competitors will be countryman Hiroshi Ogasawara, who is the 2007 Japan national triathlon champion.

"To me it will be a mental game. You have no other competitor but yourself. This will be another great challenge for me," said Shirato, who also saw action in last week's Ironman Malaysia held in Langkawi.

"I am still recovering from Ironman Malaysia and I still feel tired but [XTERRA Saipan] is another new challenge for me."

Shirato will not be joining Tagaman next week and will be going back to Japan on Monday while his students will be leaving Saipan on Sunday.

The weeklong Saipan Sportsfest begins today with the XTER-RA Sunset Trail Run at Micro Beach with a welcome reception taking place at PIC at 7pm.

After New Caledonia, Heo

CNMI," said Borja.

sium conference room.

Saipan's hosting since it will

"It is now time for the whole

also help promote tourism in the

DREAMS From Page 44

Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament committee members, from left,

Cathy Salas, tournament director Mike Borja, Joey Dela Cruz, and Joe

Salas for a group in a meeting yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymna-

gno] Fitial will be happy with community to come together and

Errors also did not help the Tigers as they were hounded all throughout in the latter innings, allowing the Dreams to break away.

The Dreams had a strong debut last Feb. 29 with Shane Mendiola nearly pitching the season's first no-hitter in a 9-1 win over Komoro.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

33 27

28 33

26 35

18 43

Southeast Division

40 23

29

24 35

22

11 47

24 36

24

23 38

Southwest Division

40 20

39

15

Northwest Division

40 22

36 24

31 30

16

12

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers 43 18

44 17

Central Division

x-Boston

Philadelphia

New Jersey

Washington

Atlanta

Charlotte

Detroit

Cleveland

Chicago

Indiana

Milwaukee

San Antonio 42

New Orleans 41

Houston

Memphis

Utah

Denver

Portland

Seattle

Minnesota

Miami

NBA STANDINGS

L

12 47

31

39

26

37

19

22 46

45

48

WESTERN CONFERENCE

.797

.550

.459

.426

.295

.635

.483

.407

.361

.190

.721

.574

.400

.393

.377

.683

667

.639

.246

.645

600

.508

.262

.200

20

17

26 1/2

19 1/2

20

1 1/2

2 1/2

28

23 1/

The Dreams will have their first real test on Monday, March 10, when they face Rock Steady. Games today will have the Falcons facing the Rangers at 6:30pm.

help us in hosting this event,"

added Borja, who said that they

would also seek the support of

the business community.

The Tanapag crew of manager Doru Camacho will take on the D9ers on March 12, while the Tigers try to bounce back from a 0-2 start when they face Kabur (formerly Rubak), whom they beat to win the Masters Baseball League early this year.

HEO

From Page 44

year for me but so is for the other athletes."

He was shocked at first when he heard his name since it was no ordinary award. "When they called my name, I was just happy and shocked at the same time. I mean it's just an honor to receive this. It's not just an ordinary trophy I get in a tournament.

Heo, who made his parents proud once more with his 2007

Male Athlete of the Year award, said he treats every award he wins

special. "I think the first one was special because the first is always the best. I never thought I would be getting it again this year.

He said he would be working and training harder this year to represent the CNMI in various off-island tournaments. "I will be traveling a lot more [in 2008]. Earning [more] world ranking points is my main goal for this year. I will do my best to improve as much as possible and again step up my game."

He is set to play in two ITF junior events in Korea mid this year. He will be going for two weeks in Korea to play in the Lee Duk Hee Korean International Junior Championships and the Jeju International Junior Championshpips.

Heo also plans to see action in the Guam Hilton Tournament in May before heading back to Fiji to train and prepare to join the ITF junior touring team in several ITF-sanctioned tournaments in New Caledonia.

also plans to play in the Air South Pacific Junior Championships and the Oceania Closed Junior Championships, which are both ITF tournaments. "I will try to play many ITF

tournaments this year to get a ranking. That is all I have planned for now."

Heo also congratulated the other nominees. "They have accomplished great things and they are all great athletes. We still have a long way to go and I wish all of them good luck."

sort's losing cause while Glen

Hyatt Regency Saipan 94 -Mendoza 24, Aquino 16, Magno 15, Umali 14, Arreza 12, Tenorio 8, Yamamoto 3, Vargas 2.

Saipan World Resort 83 -Hamoy 20, Vinas 19, Mangahis 17, Caruana 13, Ramos 9, Valle 2, Lanzo 2, Aguon 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12, 35-28, 53-57, 94-83.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and

Second Game

Pacific Islands Club 81 -Pungilug 7, Fernandez 2.

Aqua Resort Club 79 - Barbo 34, Aguino 24, Casabuena 6, Gapor 6, Johannes 6, Achas 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16,

Gilbert Espinosa.

Phoenix	40	21	.656	3
Golden State	37	23	.617	5 1/2
Sacramento	27	34	.443	16
L.A. Clippers	20	39	.339	22

x-clinched playoff spot

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 122, Washington 92 Charlotte 118, Golden State 109 Boston 90. Detroit 78 Toronto 108, Miami 83 Cleveland 119, New York 105 Memphis 100, New Jersey 93 Milwaukee 118, Seattle 106 New Orleans 114, Atlanta 101 Houston 117, Indiana 99 Denver 126, Phoenix 111 Utah 105, Minnesota 76 L.A. Clippers 116, Sacramento 109, 20T

LOCAL SCORES

HANMI Cup Standings

Fiesta-Grand Hotel Hvatt Regency Saipan Pacific Islands Club 6 2 Aqua Resort Club 6 Hafadai Beach Hotel 5 3 Saipan World Resort 2 Aguarius Beach Tower

SML Standings

_	Korean Dreams	2	0
3	Tanapag Falcons	1	0
8 1/2	D9ers	1	0
23 1/2	Rock Steady	1	0
27	Ford Rangers	0	1
	Kabur	0	1
	Komoro	0	1
_	Tigers	0	2

HYATT From Page 44

er. World Resort has lost by an average of 13.4 points in their last three games.

Leading for most part of the first half, Hyatt failed to stop World Resort's comeback midway in the second quarter. Consecutive 3-pointers by Jerryfel Mangahis and Clifford Hamoy, plus a Dennis Vinas split free throw knotted the count at 26all for the first time in the final two minutes of the second period, before Hyatt went on a closing 9-2 spurt to take a 35-28 halftime lead.

World Resort then dropped a 25-11 bomb to take a 53-46 lead with three minutes left in the third quarter, but Hyatt quickly countered with a 7-4 exchange to keep the game close and not allow their opponents to break the game wide open heading into the final quarter.

Hyatt capitalized on its height advantage and continuously pounded the ball inside the paint to swing the momentum back into their favor. Hyatt was in cruise control after tying the count at 62-all, on an Edmark Mendoza layup from a bullet pass from a streaking Mike Umali, 7:15 left in the match.

World Resort could not stop the Mendoza-Umali fourth quarter show as the duo combined for 21 points in that period, while Steven Tenorio, who came in early in the fourth period after playing baseball in the 3rd Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the adjacent field, scored eight points mostly on fastbreak layups.

Mendoza paced Hyatt with 24 points, 10 rebounds, and five assists, while Umali added 14 markers, six rebounds, three assists, and two steals and was also instrumental in limiting the fourth quarter scoring of Mangahis.

Bernard Aquino finished with 16 points, eight rebounds, seven assists, and five steals while Abaya Magno tallied 15 markers and grabbed 15 rebounds. Krisgel Arreza chipped in 12 points and six rebounds.

Hamoy led World Resort with 20 points, while Vinas ended up with 19 points, seven rebounds, and a team-high six steals. Mangahis netted 17 points while Rogel Caruana contributed 13 more in the offensive end.

In the second game, J.R. Ngeskebei scored 22 points to lead PIC to an 81-79 win over Aqua Resort. Ngeskebei was a rebound short of a his first double-double performance.

James Abuy had 16 points, seven rebounds, and three steals, while Derrick Tudela had his usual numbers with 13 points and 14 rebounds. Butch Kaipat finished with 12 markers and five rebounds.

Darwin Barbo scored a gamehigh 34 points to lead Aqua ReAquino erupted for 24 points.

First Game

Dado Vistal.

Ngeskebei 22, Abuy 16, Tudela 13, Kaipat 12, Tolentino 9,

43-34, 57-51, 81-79.

Referees: Eric Artillaga and

Tarkong and Leeroy to fight in PXC XIV

Jayson Tarkong, left, and B.J. Taisacan are all smiles after their match in the Rites of Passage series last year.

By JON PEREZ



The CN-MI's Jayson Tarkong and Leeroy Sablan will be seeing

action in today's PXC XIV: Evolution at 7pm at the University of Guam Field House in Mangilao.

Tarkong, fighting out of Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym, will be facing James Ikenur, while Marianas Elite's Leeroy Sablan battles Thomas Calvo in several undercard fights.

Tetsuji Kato, Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan, and Zalaka's An-

Members of the newly formed

Oceania University Association

have agreed that being part of the

International University Sports

Federation, or Fédération Inter-

nationale du Sport Universitaire,

(FISU), would be beneficial to

all of their young athletes in the

The Brussels, Belgium-based

organization is the world gov-

erning body of over 100 nation-

al university sports federations

that organizes the Winter and

Summer Universiades in un-

even years and the World Uni-

versity Championships in even

The Universiade is an inter-

national sporting and cultural

festival, which is staged every

two years in a different city and

which is second in importance

The OUSA was formed in

order to represent the Oceania

only to the Olympics.

By JON PEREZ

tertiary level.

years.

REPORTER

jon_perez@saipantribune.com

drew Sablan were also scheduled to see action in PXC IVL: Evolution but their fights were cancelled.

Tarkong will try to improve his 7-2 record. His last fight was against Team Haga's B.J. Taisacan in Rites of Passage III: Rise of the Warriors last Sept. 1 where he won by knockout.

The group left Wednesday night along with their support crew, corner men, and local fight organizer Cuki Alvarez.

PXC XIV: Evolution will be different since it will feature three main event matches with three of Guam's best mixed martial arts warriors going up against opponents from Hawaii and Japan.

Guam's Baby Joe Taiman-

glo will face 6'2" Colin MacKenzie out of Hawaii's 808 Fight Factory, while Japan's Hiriona Takeyasu will trade punches with Jesse 'The Spuderman" Taitano.

Vernon Parengit, MacKenzie's teammate in 808 Fight Factory, will battle Eben Kaneshiro.

In other news, Alvarez informed local fight fans on Saipan that the Rites of Passage IV: The Uproar DVD is now out and can be purchased at the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym.

Alvarez said the DVD is a great gift idea or collection for all MMA fans. It's also a chance for those fans who missed the Feb.

16 event to watch it on video. **OUSA** beneficial to Pacific student athletes

> naments. Jeff Race, who represented the CNMI in the meeting held last month in Apia, Samoa, said OUSA's formation would encourage and facilitate greater participation among Oceania

versiade Games, World Cham-

pionships, and other major tour-

athletes in FISU events. Race said OUSA needs to get all Oceania member nations to join FISU in order for them to be recognized by FISU as the Oceania representative in the world body of college sports.

Only Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea are FISU member countries with the CNMI's membership application still pending for approval by the executive com-

Race said Vanuatu, Guam, FSM, and Samoa would soon apply for FISU membership.

The 11 countries that attended the meeting also held an

region in FISU-organized Uni- election of officers where Fiji's Cliff Benson was elected as the OSUA president with Vanuatu's Jean Pierre Nirua as the vice president.

> Other elected officers were Samoa's Karen Nelson (secretary); and board members Castro Joab of the Federated States of Micronesia, Imo, and Knapp.

> Race declined the nomination since he is busy with other commitments in the CNMI. "The new organization needs people to have [more] time and willing to work hard. I wear 12 different hats that I counted and I am not ready to wear hat No. 13 that might be unlucky.

> Executive committee vice president Stephan Bergh and director of protocol and education Kole Gjeloshaj represented FISU where they met with Race, Imo, Nirua, Knapp, Benson, Joab, Nelson, the Cook Islands' Ray Preston, New Zealand's Hamish Hopkins, Nauru's Rayong Isimaera, and PNG's Molly Geno.

Hustlers continue to lead Destroyers

By MARK RABAGO



SaipanCell Hustlers widened the gap between them

and Jonny's Destroyers after winning five out of seven games against a determined Len's 5 Amigos crew last Tuesday night at Len's 5 Tavern.

At 39-10, the Hustlers now have a five-game lead in the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League over erstwhile pacesetter Destroyers, which dropped a 3-4 decision against USSP Wat-Ever at the USS Peleliu Club in the same evening.

Erwin Gomez started the fireworks for the powerhouse Hustlers side when he defeated Amigos' Jon Morris in the first game. Larry Briones made it 1-1 shortly thereafter when he upset Jerry Soriano of Hustlers.

Robert Sanciangco and Senen Pangilinan brought order back to the universe when they outlasted Cristy Noche and John va paired with Amor Zapata to Chargualaf, respectively, before Amigos surrendered a loss in the fifth singles match because they only had four players.

With the count at 4-1, Hustlers could afford to lose the first doubles match and that exactly was what they did when Joey Lucido and Gomez were defeated by Morris and Noche.

Soriano and Sanciango then made it 5-2 when they swept Briones and Chargualaf.

Playing away from home, meanwhile, didn't turn out so well for Destroyers when they succumbed to Wat-Ever at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

Ken Phillips, Rick Rengiil, and Gus Kaipat quickly suck the life out of the Destroyers when they beat R.J. Mascarinas, Juancho Mendoza, and Luis Fajardo in the first three games.

Rolly Villanueva and Ryan Ochita gave Destroyers wins in the final two singles matches when they topped Ed Manucoc and John Tutii before Villanuemake it 3-3 when they defeated Phillips and Tutii.

But Destroyers' comeback bid went down in flames when Mascarinas and Fajardo failed to get going against Rengiil and Kaipat.

Other matches Tuesday saw Porky's Extremist (32-17) beat VFW Warriors (13-36), 7-0; Wild Wild West (30-19) defeat Mr. Wonderful Shooters (28-21). 5-2: Len's 5 Bad Boyz (29-20) upend Porky's Wild Hogs (29-20), 4-3; USSP Fotten Palau (28-21) take out Coral Reef Barracuda (11-38), 5-2; Coral Reef Shark Attack (28-21) win over Perfect Spotter (17-32), 4-3; and Wild Bill's Snipers (22-27) outlast Godfathers Magas (20-29).

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and the SEDA leagues, contact league secretary Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397.



Coral Reef Shark Attack and Porky's Wild Hogs players pose for a photo during a lull in their Feb. 26 game at Porky's in the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

MASC to meet today for spearfishing event

The Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club will hold an organizational meeting for the upcoming 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament at 7pm today, March 7, at the

inviting all spearfishing enthusiasts to attend the meeting. The two said the 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament is

home a handsome championship trophy, an Omer Excalibur 3000 spear gun, and a \$100 gift certificate. Scott Russel and Peter

Starmer and his crew took

Houk, meanwhile, won the total weight and total fish categories with their haul of 44.58 lbs that constitutes 24 pieces.

The Biggest Parrotfish was awarded to Russel (3.52 lbs), the Biggest Rudderfish award belonged Houk (4.38 lbs), while the Biggest Emperor and Biggest Goatfish were bagged by Cris Sasamoto (3.72 lbs) and Mark Hapdei (1.4 lbs), respectively.

A total of 13 teams (26 divers) and nine boats took part in the Inaugural Spearfishing Tournament, which was held

For more information about 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament and the meeting today, call Asai at 483-7625/233-5055 or Sasamoto at 898-8155. (Mark Rabago)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club president Morito Asai, right, and his vice president Felix Sasamoto, second left, join other spearfishing enthusiasts in a recent dive.

AquaSmith Dive Shop in scheduled for May 2008. Garapan.

MASC president Morito Asai and his vice president Felix Sasamoto said they are

Last year, John Starmer won the Biggest Fish category after he and his crew caught a 5.4-lb Spadefish.

last May 11.



Tarkong and Leeroy to fight in PXC XIV

The CNMI's Jayson Tarkong and Leeroy Sablan will be seeing action in today's PXC XIV: Evolution at 7pm at the University of Guam Field

House in Mangilao

43



LeBron has 50 points in win over Knicks

LeBron James had 50 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 119-105 victory over the New York Knicks on Wednesday.

20

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

38

44 FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008

Heo raised his level of play in '07

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



Ji Hoon Heo believes his sterling performance in 2007 impressed the selection committee that earned him his second straight Male Student Athlete of the Year award.

Heo placed second in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji last year, losing to Daneric Hazelman of Fiji in the finals. He also improved tremendously, which was the result of his three-month long stint at the International Tennis Federation regional training center in Lautoka, Fiji.

Heo received his award in Tuesday night's annual sports banquet, which was organized by the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, held at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Heo said he did not expect to win since he believes the other nominees were better than him. "Cooper Graff made many impressive accomplishments. I don't really like thinking ahead of what will happen. I thought 2007 was a great

See HEO on Page 42



Ji Hoon Heo holds his 2007 Male Student Athlete of the Year trophy during the annual Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association sports banquet last Tuesday night at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Taro joins students for XTERRA



By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

ongtime Japanese professional triathlete and instructor Taro Shirato will be joining six of his students in tomorrow's XTERRA Saipan Championship, which begins at 6:30am at Micro Beach.

Shirato, who arrived on Wednesday, will be competing in his seventh straight XTERRA Saipan. He started triathlon when he was 22 years old and has been joining other XTERRA races for

10 consecutive years.

Joining him tomorrow are XTERRA third-timers Yuko Nagamine and Tsutomu Kamiyama and

rookies Ryo Shibata, Yoshimi Yasue, Tomoyo Shibata, and Hisanao Sannomiya.
The group is staying at Pacific Islands Club.

Shirato's best finish in XTERRA Saipan was third behind eventual champion Olivier Marceau of France and Japan's Yu Yumoto in 2006. He placed seventh last year

among all male pro athletes.

His previous finishes were fourth in 2005 and fifth in 2004 and 2003 and seventh overall in his first competition on Saipan in 2002.

The accomplished coach and director of XTER-RA Japan rode the bike course and tried the trail run yesterday along with his six students. He said all of his students will do the XTERRA individually.

All the signs are already put up in the XTERRA course to guide participants in order for them not to get lost. "Some parts are difficult, some are easy

See TARO on Page 42

Hyatt, PIC outlast foes in HANMI Cup

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



Hyatt Regency Saipan and Pacific Islands Club outlasted their respective foes Wednesday even as action in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League is expected to heat up entering the final three play dates tition.

Hyatt survived Saipan World Resort's upset bid to pull off a 94-83 win, while PIC overcame Aqua Resort's last-minute rally to squeeze out an 81-79 decision at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win improved Hyatt's record to 7-3 for second place behind the league-leading Fiesta-Grand Hotel's 9-1 mark. The loss was the third straight and eighth overall for World Resort as they can no longer duplicate their morale-boosting 100-84 upset victory over PIC on Feb. 6.

World Resort now holds a 2-8 mark, just two games ahead of the winless Aquarius Beach Tow-See HYATT on Page 42

ION DE

Saipan World Resort's Dennis Vinas tries to score against two Hyatt Regency Saipan defenders in their game in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Dreams in early SML lead

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



The Korean Dreams took an early lead in the standings of the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League after beating last year's finalist

Tigers, 13-4, Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The win was the second straight for the Dreams after opening up with a 9-1 victory against Komoro last Feb. 29 for a 2-0 record and a full-game lad over defending champion Tanapag Falcons' 1-0 slate.

The Tigers, who are formerly known as the Masters, suffered their second straight defeat.

Last year, the Dreams failed to win a single game finishing at the bottom of the standings.

This early in the season, the Dreams appear to be a darkhorse for the Budweiser-SML crown.

Young and talented rookies, who are veterans or graduates of the Saipan Little League program, beef up the team.

Tony Joab pitched the Dreams out of danger as he held the Tigers to one run after allowing their opponents to take a 3-0 lead after the first inning.

See DREAMS on Page 42